United Nations A/55/338

General Assembly

Distr.: General
31 August 2000
English
Original: English/French

Fifty-fifth session
Item 33 of the provisional agenda*
Culture of peace

Implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance (1998-2000)

Note by the Secretary-General**

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on progress made in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/151 of 9 December 1998.

* A/55/150.

** The report was received from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 24 August 2000.

00-62673 (E) 201000 201000

Report of the Director-General of UNESCO on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance

1998-2000

I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Year for Tolerance was celebrated in 1995, on the initiative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This led to the adoption of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance, the proclamation of the International Day for Tolerance (16 November) and the creation of regional networks for the promotion of tolerance, non-violence and solidarity. The United Nations General Assembly widely endorsed the action taken and, in resolution 51/95 of 12 December 1996, requested UNESCO to make reports available to the General Assembly on a biennial basis on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles and the Follow-up Plan of Action.

2. The role of UNESCO as lead United Nations agency in the promotion of tolerance and non-violence — a role consistent with its mission of founding peace upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of peoples — was confirmed by General Assembly resolution 53/151 of 9 December 1998. The Assembly welcomed the role played by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the implementation of the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance and requested it to continue to be the lead United Nations agency in the promotion of tolerance and non-violence and to include in its report on a culture of peace, to be submitted to the Millennium Assembly, information on the progress made in the implementation of the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance.

1. Main themes of the Plan of Action

3. The overall objective of the programme of the Plan of Action is to educate, inform and empower individuals to assume the responsibilities of dialogue, mutual respect, toleration and non-violence, and to encourage pluralism and tolerance in the policies of Member States.[1] It is aimed, in particular, at young people. Its main themes are education, awareness-raising and also monitoring and research through networks, in cooperation with UNESCO Chairs. Emphasis will be placed on constructing and using practical and concrete tools for problem-solving. Celebration of the International Day for Tolerance, promotion of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the regional networks for the promotion of tolerance, non-violence and solidarity are key elements of the follow-up.

2. Type of activities carried out by UNESCO

4. Awareness-raising and mobilization:

(a) International Day for Tolerance (16 November): this is a decisive occasion for mobilizing young people and public opinion in Member States through educational activities and information campaigns in the media;

(b) Declaration of Principles on Tolerance: promoting this declaration, the first international standard-setting tool in its field, is essential in order to generate greater support for the principles of tolerance and non-violence and to facilitate their implementation, inter alia, through educational programmes;

(c) Prizes (UNESCO Prize for Peace Education and UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence): have a big impact at the international level;

(d) Publications: textbooks, brochures, posters, audio-visual materials and books (new collection "classics of tolerance");

(e) Participation of the media in the awarding of prizes and in round tables and conferences.

5. Research, policies and standard-setting activities:

(a) Regional networks for the promotion of tolerance and non-violence: these play a decisive role

inasmuch as they help to advance social science research into the sources of intolerance and to recommend effective countermeasures;

(b) Meetings and discussions: these encourage contacts with the actors of international society and civil societies, particularly educators, and contribute to the preparation of preventive policies to combat intolerance and discrimination.

3. Content

6. The themes of these activities, which are centred around dialogue, mutual understanding and the prevention of violence, cover a vast area. Tolerance is linked, as a matter of priority, with: intercultural and intercommunity dialogue; the fight against discrimination, xenophobia and racism; promotion of democracy and pluralism; peace education; human rights education; the contribution of the different religions to the culture of peace; and the role of arts and sports in building an ethic of tolerance.

7. The sharp rise in violence is one of the major problems of today; it concerns the United Nations system as a whole and UNESCO in particular, for the latter has been given the mandate to help found peace upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind. The international community is becoming increasingly concerned at the spread of violence and anxious to provide concrete solutions, as demonstrated, inter alia, by the themes selected for the international years proclaimed by the United Nations on the threshold of this century — not only the International Year for the Culture of Peace (2000), proclaimed at the suggestion of UNESCO, but also the Year of Dialogue among Civilizations (2001) and the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (2001). UNESCO will play a central role in these themes for 2001.

8. The diversity and scope of the activities and plans carried out and launched by UNESCO between 1998 and 2000 underscore the value that the international community attaches to tolerance as a dynamic principle of cultural diversity, dialogue and peace and confirm that tolerance is called on to become a priority theme in the activities of the United Nations system.

II. Observance of the third International Day for Tolerance throughout the world (1998)

9. The Togolese Federation of UNESCO Associations and Clubs organized a national two-week festival for tolerance, for the fourth year in a row, from 12 to 29 November 1998; this year the theme was human rights and tolerance. This event, which was attended by the Director-General of UNESCO, gave rise to numerous activities throughout the country: a theatre forum, days of reflection on human rights and tolerance, screenings of films on tolerance in educational institutions, sports events and drawing competitions with the awarding of prizes, solidarity picnics and various festive meetings relating to solidarity.

10. In Namibia, the UNESCO office in Windhoek organized, in collaboration with the Namibian National Commission for UNESCO, a series of activities for young people including a poetry, painting, photography and poster competition on the topic of tolerance in everyday life in Namibia; the best entries may be published. The "Culture of Care" programme launched on this occasion is to be implemented by the National Commission. Other activities included an exhibition of UNESCO publications, posters and audio-visual material dealing with tolerance and a reception for Government and non-governmental organizations representatives directly involved in the promotion of tolerance, journalists and the winners of the competitions.

11. In the United States of America, the Friends of the United Nations, a non-governmental organization established in 1989 to promote the principles and values set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, organized a full day of activities which included a workshop to train 500 heads of secondary establishments in peaceful conflict resolution, a lunch to honour various non-governmental organizations which work to promote tolerance and the awarding of the Global Tolerance Award.

12. This award, which was set up in 1998 by the Friends of the United Nations, is intended to honour people or institutions having made a significant contribution to help advance the implementation of the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance (1995). This was the first time it was

awarded and it went to two non-governmental organizations in the United States, the Anti-Defamation League and the Southern Poverty Law Center, for their efforts to promote multicultural understanding, and to three individuals: the Moroccan author, Tahar Ben Jelloun, who has written a book, entitled *Racism Explained to my Daughter*, which has become a best-seller and which has been translated from French into some 15 languages; the American composer Mark A. Williams, whose song, *One Song, Many Voices*, was chosen by Friends of the United Nations as the theme for the International Day for Tolerance and for the millennium celebrations; and, lastly, the internationally known singer and performer Vanessa Williams.

Messages were read out to those attending from the Director-General of UNESCO on the occasion of the International Day for Tolerance and from Mrs. Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

13. The UNESCO National Commission of the Republic of Macedonia has, inter alia, produced a set of four educational posters on tolerance in the Macedonian language.

14. Portugal organized the second round table on sports, tolerance and fair play, held on 19 and 20 November 1998, as part of a Council of Europe project. On that occasion, the heads of State and Government reaffirmed their goal of building a more tolerant and just society and recognized that sports could make a significant contribution as a "school for tolerance".

15. In early December, the Menorcan Island Council (Balearic Islands, Spain) held a "tolerance week" that included round tables, exhibits and concerts. A series of famous artists and celebrities participated.

16. On 12 December 1998 in Tunis, Tunisia, UNESCO and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) Club organized a Tunisian Tolerance Night 1998, a gala event at which many Tunisian singers performed, in honour of the International Day for Tolerance and the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

17. In Tajikistan, demonstrations were organized throughout the country in order to spread the message of tolerance through the media, exhibits, courses on peace and meetings with young people.

18. The Kuwait National UNESCO Commission has petitioned the authorities to have the International Day for Tolerance celebrated annually and to have the media help disseminate the principles of tolerance as the basis for peace on that day.

19. In India, the International Foundation for Human Development organized a series of educational activities in the schools to prepare students for the Day through individual projects (a statement in their regional language on their concept of tolerance) and cooperative projects. Groups of students decided to take action to promote tolerance throughout the school year. Prizes were awarded for the best projects. An announcement of the International Day for Tolerance and the International Year for the Culture of Peace appeared, as it had done the previous year, on the inside cover of the monthly magazine, *New Swatantra Times*.

20. In celebration of the International Day for Tolerance, the Democratic Republic of the Congo UNESCO National Commission published a brochure containing the Director-General's message and an essay on the need to publicize and implement the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance throughout the country.

21. The Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe issued a long message on the occasion of the International Day for Tolerance and the UNESCO National Commission devoted a special issue of its newsletter, *Prisma*, to the theme of tolerance.

III. Celebration of the Fourth International Day for Tolerance in 1999

22. From 20 to 30 November 1999, the UNESCO Unit for Tolerance and Non-Violence organized the second International Film Festival against Exclusion and for Tolerance in Paris during the thirtieth session of the General Conference. Each of the 30 films shown was followed by a discussion with the audience, led by the producer or a specialist. With an audience of over 5,000, this educational awareness activity, which targeted the general public and young people, was a success. The Unit also organized an exhibit, "Faces and Gazes", at Headquarters in cooperation with the Paris student residence halls from 26 October to 17 November 1999. These photographs of student

residents from over 130 countries, taken by Mr. Manolo Laredo, were a tribute to cultural diversity and its creative richness.

23. On the occasion of the International Day for Tolerance, Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, issued a message. He stressed that "the struggle for tolerance is the struggle for humanity itself .... As greater parts of humanity encounter different cultures and races, either through travel or immigration, it becomes incumbent upon all of us to seek out and embrace what unites us, and not what divides us." He also explained that the United Nations would focus increasingly on tolerance: "As we enter a new century, the United Nations will place tolerance at the centre of all our efforts for peace and progress".

24. Some non-governmental organizations, especially the Da Capo Foundation and the Friends of the United Nations, held a lavish celebration of the International Day for Tolerance. On 15 November, the Da Capo Foundation organized and held a gala dinner at the Plaza Hotel in New York to host the 1999 Lifetime Achievement Peace and Tolerance Awards ceremony, in which seven international celebrities were honoured for their active commitment to peace, tolerance and social justice. The following day, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, these international celebrities presented the prizes (including university scholarships) to the seven young recipients of the 1999 Global Youth Peace and Tolerance Awards, which reward young people aged 15 and over for exceptional action to promote peace and tolerance in the media, the performing arts, fine art, literature, science, technology and social activism. This gesture from the older to the younger recipients symbolized the passing of the torch to a new generation to promote the values of tolerance. The festivities, which continued for three days, ended with the holding of an open forum for youth at the United Nations.

25. In India, the International Foundation for Human Development changed its tactics this year in order to promote the cause of tolerance not only in word but in deed. It sent many schools instructions and messages from UNESCO and the United Nations system on the principles of tolerance and the implementation thereof. The objective, which was achieved in several schools, was to involve students, parents and teachers simultaneously in the implementation of fairly long projects to encourage tolerance and, by so doing, to promote tolerance education from primary school on.

26. Ukraine organized a Tolerance Week in the universities, institutes and schools working within the framework of UNESCO-associated schools. The week opened with a lecture, on the theory and practice of teaching tolerance, which was attended by members of the Government and diplomatic missions, representatives of non-governmental organizations and intellectuals. An exhibit of children's drawings, round tables and other public debates were held in various institutions with UNESCO Chairs.

27. At the request of the Austrian Government, the Austrian Intercultural Centre organized a project entitled "Youth Working for Tolerance". Some 50 young people from all over the world attended five days of seminars on the theme of tolerance and the peaceful resolution of disputes. The results of the last day, which was declared Tolerance Day, were broadcast on the Internet and on television.

28. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Day was celebrated with various ceremonies and round tables at universities, research institutes and cultural centres, in which media heads and journalists participated. The Director-General's message on tolerance was translated and published in Persian.

29. As part of its international network, Education for Democracy, Human Rights and Tolerance, which includes non-governmental organizations from seven countries, and in cooperation with the University of Munich, the Bertelsmann Foundation organized a panel discussion involving educators and politicians in order to promote the development of a democratic culture of tolerance.

30. In Venezuela, several days of activities are carried out in celebration of the Day, in a different city each year, in connection with the nation's UNESCO centres and clubs. These activities are intended primarily for young people. From 26 to 28 November 1999, four "national tolerance days" were celebrated in Barinas. The flags of tolerance were flown and many events were held, including plays, dances, concerts, videos, exhibits of children's paintings, crafts, a "tolerance Mass", a lecture on tolerance and a meeting with artists, poets and teachers.

31. In Turkey, the International Day for Tolerance falls during "Atatürk week". On that occasion, the Ministry of Education sponsored a series of activities in the schools and universities, including class discussions; meetings and lectures; plays; painting,

poetry and drawing contests; and illustrated posters on the theme of tolerance and brotherhood.

32. In Azerbaijan, a number of activities marked the Day. The President of the Republic received leaders of the three main religions (Islam, Christianity and Judaism). Meetings were held in secondary schools in a number of towns, as were exhibitions of works of art made by children. Articles on the principles of tolerance were published in the press.

33. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Mutualité des Jacobins sages, a non-governmental organization based in Uvira, organized a day for widespread mobilization in favour of education for tolerance, peace and solidarity in a region which had been made unstable by inter-ethnic turmoil. This observance, which involved schoolchildren, political leaders, members of the armed forces, the clergy and actors from civil society, opened with a moment of meditation, continued with a cultural presentation by the "friends of peace" and a poetry competition on the theme of tolerance, and ended with a round-table discussion on the topic "Tolerance: The threshold of peace".

IV. UNESCO prizes

1998

34. The 1998 UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence (biennial) was awarded for the second time on 16 November (the International Day for Tolerance) at a ceremony held at UNESCO headquarters. The prize went to two winners: the Joint Action Committee for People's Rights (Pakistan), an informal coalition of individuals and 30 non-governmental organizations working for the promotion of women's rights and religious tolerance and against the nuclear arms race; and Mr. Narayan Desai (India), a longtime advocate of peace education, who has founded training centres for young people and a group of volunteers for non-violence known as the "Shanti Sena" ("Peace Brigade").

35. The 1998 UNESCO Prize for Peace Education (annual) went to the independent volunteer organization Educators for Peace and Mutual Understanding (Ukraine), which, inter alia, trains teachers at all levels to transmit the ideals of peace, human rights and the rights of the child. Three other non-governmental organizations received honourable mentions: the *Fridtjof Nansen Academy* (Norway), which promotes human dignity and human rights; the World Court Project (Aotearoa, New Zealand), whose members are active partisans of nuclear disarmament; and *Ulpan Akiva Netanya* (Israel), which helps to promote intercultural dialogue through the teaching of languages and traditions.

1999

36. The 1999 UNESCO Prize for Peace Education was given to the Association of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo (Argentina), an ethical movement that has used non-violent means to fight for human rights, justice and peace since 1977. Three honourable mentions were received, respectively, by Ms. Irène Drolet, a Canadian teacher who trains her primary-school pupils to participate in democratic life; the Tübingen Association for Peace Education (Germany), which focuses on strengthening the role of citizens in monitoring public opinion; and the Congregation of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (Angola), which works actively to ensure the continued access of young people and women to education in that African country.

V. Awareness-raising activities

37. A number of activities have helped to strengthen UNESCO action in the area of tolerance: the Third International Meeting on the Audio-Visual Testimony of Survivors of Concentration and Extermination Camps (Brussels, June 1998), the International Conference on Tolerance, Human Rights and Freedom of the Press (Moscow, November 1998) and the "Meeting for Friendship Among Peoples", which focused on the issue of human cloning (Rimini, Italy, August 1998).

38. With a view to establishing, in Algiers, a centre for study and research on contemporary forms of violence and for the promotion of a culture of peace, close contacts were established with the Algerian authorities in the course of four meetings, three of which were held in 1998 in Algiers, Geneva and Constantine. Despite the close cooperation between UNESCO and the World Health Organization (WHO), on the one hand, and the Algerian public health authorities, on the other, the project could not be implemented because of difficulties arising from Algeria's socio-political circumstances.

39. The Raoul Wallenberg International Movement for Humanity, based in Montreal, Canada, launched a project to introduce into the educational system, for pupils completing primary school, a one-hour programme on tolerance and on the dangers of discrimination, using the example of Raoul Wallenberg, a young diplomat posted in Hungary during the Second World War who risked his life to save tens of thousands of people of various nationalities, religions and cultures. This project will include a travelling exhibition on his life and activities, slides and a videotape, a discussion led by a specialized teacher and an educational game entitled "If I were Raoul ...".

40. The Declaration of Principles on Tolerance has been translated into many languages and disseminated more widely. With its publication in Finnish, there are now 25 language versions of it as at 28 March 2000. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Declaration has been translated into Farsi, published and distributed, along with the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance and some UNESCO publications on tolerance. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the National Commission for UNESCO has launched a campaign to disseminate translations of the Declaration in four local languages: Lingala, Kiswahili, Kikongo and Tshiluba. In India, extracts from the Declaration have been translated into some of the country's official languages: Hindi, Telugu and Malayalam. In Uzbekistan, the Declaration has been translated and published in Uzbek. In Lithuania, the Declaration has been translated and disseminated in Lithuanian.

41. In Hungary, a UNESCO Chair on minorities has been established at the University of Budapest, in the context of the Declaration and Plan of Action, to educate students under a programme of study on ethnic groups and minorities and to carry out research in this field.

42. Brazil has incorporated the principles of tolerance into its national human rights programme, which includes measures to promote tolerance of the differences between and the specific features of individuals and sociocultural groups.

43. The Government of the Republic of Colombia, in order to expand the teaching of tolerance in its educational system, has made use of *Tolerance: The Threshold of Peace*. This three-volume UNESCO publication is intended for teachers, but also for teacher trainers, community leaders, parents and social workers; in other words, for all those whose educational mission can help lead society to the "threshold of peace".

44. The Unit for Tolerance and Non-Violence, in collaboration with the World Centre for Peace in Verdun, France, organized, at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, a visit by the "Bosnian International Peace Class" on 7 May 1999. The class consisted of some 20 young Bosnians from the three communities and nearly 100 other young Europeans (from Germany, Romania and France). The Centre's aim is to bring mutually hostile groups from countries plagued by war or civil strife to talk to each other, in a series of meetings over several days, so as to understand one another better. The discussion in which they participated at UNESCO had the theme "How can we live together?" and was accompanied by a screening of *Message for the Year 2000*, a film on sports, tolerance and human rights, which was produced at the initiative of UNESCO for the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

45. The Gandhi Television Centre for Communication and Peace is the audio-visual production department of the United Nations University for Peace. It has launched a pilot campaign to promote harmonious coexistence, tolerance and a culture of peace in Colombia, consisting of a series of television spots, reports and documentaries.

46. In Chile, the National Commission for UNESCO has distributed posters in Spanish on the subject of tolerance. In addition, the University of Chile has proposed a UNESCO Chair on the theme "Addressing violence: a multidisciplinary challenge", the aims of which include the establishment of assistance and treatment centres for victims and perpetrators of violence in Chile, Latin America and Europe.

47. In Mexico, the Ministry of the Interior has included on its Internet site a selection of the documentation posted on the site of the UNESCO Unit for Tolerance and Non-Violence.

VI. Publications

48. In 1999, UNESCO launched its "Classics of Tolerance" collection with the publication of *Penser la non-violence* by Ramin Jahanbegloo, which concerns

the history and philosophy of non-violence as a dynamic principle of contemporary democracy. In 2000, this work was translated into Farsi. An English version is planned.

49. On the initiative of the Ukrainian National Commission for UNESCO and in the context of the International Day for Tolerance, an educational awareness-raising magazine on the teaching of tolerance was launched in 1998 in Ukraine. Four issues have already appeared, an appeal to the teachers of Ukraine emphasizes the crucial place that must be given to tolerance education, both at home and in school, and proposes to introduce, in consultation with the political authorities, a series of concrete measures and actions.

50. The Canadian Commission for UNESCO has asked the Unit for Tolerance and Non-Violence for 200 copies of the brochure "Ten Ideas for observing the International Day for Tolerance".

51. The joint programme commission Education for Human Rights and Tolerance, in which non-governmental organizations working with UNESCO participate, issued the document "Living together with our differences" in 1998, as part of the follow-up to the United Nations Year for Tolerance.

VII. Media: printed and audio-visual media

52. In an article, entitled "Les droits de l'homme, trame de notre existence" (Human rights, the fabric of our lives), published in *Le Monde* on 9 December 1999, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, spoke of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance and stressed how vital tolerance is, saying that, without it, all human rights are doomed to remain a dead letter. He went on to say that tolerance is the foundation of civil society and peace and that it enables us to see diverse cultures not as an obstacle to respect for human rights or, what would be even worse, as a justification for the violations committed, but as a source of enrichment for us all.

53. In the Russian Federation, Moscow television "TV Centre" organized a show for the International Day for Tolerance with the participation of the UNESCO office in Moscow; some 100 cities were involved.

54. The ceremony for the awarding of the UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Prize for the promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence 1998 was rebroadcast on 20 December 1998 by CNN on its *World Report Sunday* news programme.

55. The ceremony for the awarding of the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education 1999 was widely covered by the media. On 23 December 1999, it was broadcast on CNN *World Report* and reached close to 85 million homes in Europe. In Germany, *Rund Brief*, the review of the Tubingen Association for Peace Education, also devoted considerable attention to the prize and to the fact that the association had received an honourable mention. In Canada, Radio Canada International disseminated for one week, including on the Internet, the speech delivered at UNESCO by Ms. Irène Drolet, a Quebec schoolteacher, who also received an honourable mention.

56. In Venezuela, articles reporting the success of the fourth national day for tolerance were published in three daily newspapers.

VIII. Regional networks to promote tolerance, non-violence and solidarity

57. The second meeting of the Mediterranean-Black Sea regional network to promote tolerance, non-violence and solidarity took place just at the end of the Kosovo war (Primorsko, Bulgaria, 17-21 June 1999). An appeal for tolerance, democracy and pluralism, the Primorsko appeal was unanimously adopted by the 30 or so participants (Albania, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). It expressed the support of the intellectuals and university scholars who had gathered on that occasion for the United Nations system. It recalled that education is the basic tool for instilling the values of tolerance, dialogue, non-violence and mutual understanding and that such education must be multilingual and multicultural. Suggestions were made for a series of specific projects to rebuild peace in the Balkans, one being the organization of a summer school for persons working with young people and the creation of a regional centre for tolerance, which would be open to

young people from various countries; both the summer school and the centre would be based at Primorsko.

58. In Brazil, in the context of the Latin American and Caribbean regional framework to promote tolerance, non-violence and solidarity, a "citizenship room devoted to activities related to tolerance, coexistence and human rights" was inaugurated in the old city of São Paolo.

59. The second meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean regional network to promote tolerance, non-violence and solidarity will be held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in October 2000.

IX. Meetings and discussions

60. A colloquium on dialogue and education for tolerance and peace, a challenge for the twenty-first century, was organized by the International Association of Educators for World Peace at UNESCO headquarters from 22 to 24 April 1999. It was followed by other meetings on the same theme in Milan, Madrid and Warsaw.

61. Every year the French association Harambé organizes a jazz festival in honour of Martin Luther King. On 22 January 2000, it organized a discussion on tolerance as part of its cultural activities to raise awareness of tolerance and xenophobia with documents provided by the UNESCO Unit for Tolerance and Non-Violence.

62. In Montreal, Canada, a week of action to combat racism was held from 20 to 26 March 2000 coinciding with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March), to increase awareness of the need for solidarity, tolerance and equality for all. The films and videos shown were those presented at the second UNESCO international film festival against exclusion and for tolerance (which took place at headquarters in November 1999).

63. UNESCO supported a conference organized in Cyprus from 7 to 9 April 2000 by the non-governmental organization Seeds of Peace on the theme "to teach tolerance in classrooms". The Israeli Minister of Education, Mr. Yossi Sand, and the Deputy Minister of International Cooperation of the Palestinian Authority, Mr. Anis Al-Qaq, were present.

64. As part of the International Year for the Culture of Peace, a one-day meeting on "the spirit of tolerance or a certain conception of man" was organized by the Cercle Amadou Hampâté Bâ, in June 2000 at UNESCO headquarters.

65. A meeting organized by UNESCO on dialogue between religions and tolerance is scheduled to take place in September 2000, in the Balkans at Primorsko.

X. Miscellaneous

66. In Israel, the Centre for Tolerance Education opened in Jerusalem, in July 1998, with a two-day conference (13-14 July) on "Human Dignity: the Right to be Respected and the Obligation to Show Respect". The Centre seeks to promote new educational models, to bring the various individuals or groups involved in tolerance education together and to promote coexistence between Jews and Arabs in Israeli society. A second conference, on young people in the year 2000 and ways to encourage a climate of education and respect in a changing society, was held on 27 and 28 July 1999.

67. In Tunisia, Place de la Tolérance was inaugurated in Tunis, on 10 December 1998. The flags of tolerance were raised and will remain there permanently.

68. A ceremony in memory of Yitzhak Rabin was held in the square de la Tolérance, at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, on 4 November 1999.

69. UNESCO lent its support to an initiative in 1998 by Jeunesses musicales d'Israel to create a world musical network which seeks to promote tolerance and dialogue especially among young people.

70. The Spanish action group Manifesto of 2 January 1492, which was established in 1995, is trying to turn 2 January, the anniversary of the taking of Granada by the Catholic Monarchs — which signalled the end of peaceful coexistence between Christians, Jews and Muslims — into a celebration of tolerance. The group established the Granada open to tolerance prize and decided to award it, in 2000, to Mr. Federico Mayor, former Director-General of UNESCO, for his efforts, as head of UNESCO, to protect minorities and encourage solidarity among peoples.

71. In the Russian Federation, a programme on tolerance and prevention of extremism in Russian society was launched on 31 December 1999 by President Vladimir Putin. The programme seeks to help establish rules, values and practices based on tolerance

and non-violence in a democratic, multi-ethnic and multi-religious Russian society.

72. At the suggestion of the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO, the Director-General of UNESCO approved the creation of the Corneliu Coposu Prize for inter-ethnic and inter-denominational tolerance for Central and Eastern Europe. It was awarded, in 1998, to Professor Cesare Alzati of the University of Pisa.

73. In the Republic of Moldova, the non-governmental organization Intercultural Dialogue plans to print UNESCO tolerance posters in 2000 as part of its efforts to increase awareness of tolerance and mutual understanding in a society in transition.

Notes

[1] A/51/201, appendix I, Part III, para. 8.

United Nations A/55/339

General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 August 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Item 96 (c) of the provisional agenda*
Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Cultural development

Note by the Secretary-General**

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on cultural development, which was prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/184 of 15 December 1998.

* A/55/150.

** The draft report was received from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 24 August 2000.

00-62643 (E) 210900

Report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on cultural development

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 53/184, having taken note of the note of the Secretary-General on the convening of the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development (Stockholm, March-April 1998), the General Assembly invited all States, intergovernmental bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to implement the recommendations of the Action Plan adopted by the Stockholm Conference, to cooperate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for the purpose of ensuring effective follow-up to the Action Plan, and to intensify their efforts to integrate cultural factors into their development programmes and projects. The resolution also encouraged UNESCO "to pursue its ongoing task of promoting throughout the United Nations system a greater awareness of the crucial relationship between culture and development, taking into account the diversity of cultures and the need to apply the recommendations of the Stockholm Conference". Finally, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of UNESCO, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

2. The Stockholm Conference validated many years of advocacy on the part of UNESCO, undertaken with a view to bringing culture to the heart of the development agenda. It also provided international benchmarks for a renewal of relevant efforts and proposed new approaches to the complex and rapidly changing needs of our time. The Conference set the agenda for governmental frameworks and initiatives in the domain of culture for many years to come. It has already stimulated an increasingly broad recognition of culture as a key area of human activity and an essential ingredient of the development process: the backbone of identity, the highest expression of individual and collective creativity; an increasingly important motor of both economic growth and the energies and cohesion that all societies require.

II. Action taken by Member States and international organizations

3. Many Governments, organizations and institutions, both public and private, have responded to the rallying cry for culture contained in the Stockholm Action Plan. A case in point was the launching by Ms. Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage, of an informal network of ministers of culture, who met for the first time in Ottawa in June 1998 to discuss ways of sustaining local and national cultures in an increasingly globalized world and who agreed to launch an informal international network to promote those goals. The Government of Mexico hosted a second meeting of the informal network in September 1999, and a third will be organized by the Government of Greece in September 2000.

4. Other important developments have included the creation by the World Bank of a lending programme for cultural projects, the organization by the World Bank and the Government of Italy, in cooperation with UNESCO, of the "Culture Counts" Conference in Florence (4-7 October 1999) on the financing and economics of culture in sustainable development, and the establishment of a special culture and development page on the World Bank's Global Development Gateway (www.worldbank.org). The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has also stepped up its efforts in the domain of culture. A special symposium on development and culture was organized with the cooperation of UNESCO and the Institut d'études politiques on the occasion of the 1998 annual meeting of IDB in March 1999.

5. UNESCO has encouraged these and many other activities, consistently stressing the need for concrete initiatives that mobilize political will and persuade Governments to promote public policies that recognize the central role of culture in development.

6. Member States in all regions contributed to the conceptualization of the new programme on cultural policies for development elaborated by the Director-General of UNESCO, as follow-up to the Stockholm Conference (see below), by indicating their priorities in reply to a questionnaire sent to them by the UNESCO secretariat in the summer of 1999 or by calling upon

the advisory services and technical expertise of UNESCO. Many Member States have begun to review their cultural policies in the light of the Stockholm Action Plan or to envisage a reformulation of their cultural policy frameworks. They have sought to address various challenges highlighted in the Action Plan, such as fostering domestic cultural industries, finding better ways of "living together" in a spirit of pluralism and intercultural dialogue, and promoting visions of cultural democracy in a world of ever-increasing interconnections. Some of the member States that have not yet defined formal cultural policies are now expressing their interest in doing so.

III. Action taken by UNESCO

7. In the spring of 1998, immediately after the Stockholm Conference, the UNESCO secretariat designed a new line of action on cultural policies for development. It was endorsed by the Organization's Executive Board in the autumn of 1998 and elaborated further in the draft programme and budget for 2000-2001 considered by the General Conference at its thirtieth session in the autumn of 1999. In a resolution adopted by the General Conference on that occasion, the Director-General is authorized to promote public policies that recognize the central role of culture in development, including the creation of income-generating activities, by mobilizing and sharing information and new knowledge, particularly knowledge concerning the trade in cultural goods, facilitating the elaboration of innovative policy frameworks and strengthening national and local capacities in the management/administration of cultural institutions; and to develop further inter-agency cooperation with a view to establishing close links between cultural and educational, social, health and development policies.

8. This mandate is now being implemented in a threefold manner, through:

(a) The monitoring, collection and dissemination of policy-relevant knowledge and information;

(b) The promotion of capacity-building in member States;

(c) The reinforcement of advocacy and reflections on cultural policies in the context of development.

In order to formulate the mandate, the secretariat consulted widely with Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and foundations, as well as with individual experts and activists in the cultural policy field. The aim was to develop a programme that could be nourished by and affect all of UNESCO's cultural activities, just as the Stockholm Conference had recommended. The preparatory consultation helped to map cross-cultural diversity with regard to policy stances and actions. The consultation process included the commissioning of analytical studies on approaches to key issues in different regions. The secretariat also carefully examined the Council of Europe's cultural policy review programme, with a view to learning from the valuable lessons of that experience and adapting them to expressed needs in other geo-cultural settings.

9. Activities to disseminate the messages of the Stockholm Conference accompanied the elaboration of the new programme. Some 10,000 copies of the *Final Report* of the Conference were distributed widely in all the working languages of the General Conference. A special effort was made to provide UNESCO field offices with copies of the Action Plan as well as the *Final Report*, both in electronic format and in paper form, in the hope that they might be able to stimulate the establishment of national working groups and other initiatives designed to make practical use of the outcomes of the Conference. A section on the Conference and the follow-up to it, including an interactive component, was added to the UNESCO Culture web site. It includes such new features as a bimonthly editorial on culture and development issues.

10. In addition to the specific set of activities on cultural policies outlined above, the Executive Board of UNESCO, at its session in 1998, requested the Director-General to envision in a trans-disciplinary way a comprehensive range of activities to advance international cooperation on culture and development. Measures to follow up on that request include the research and analysis being carried out in the framework of *World Culture Report* and programming in the domains of artistic creativity and cultural heritage, copyright, the cultural industries and cultural pluralism. A particular case in point was the organization in June 1999, with the support and cooperation of Canadian Heritage and the French National Commission for UNESCO, of a symposium, entitled "Culture: A Form of Merchandise Like no

Other". The symposium brought together artists, independent professionals, jurists, economists and other experts from the private and public culture and broadcasting sectors from all regions. The discussions focused on the economic and commercial stakes of the cultural sector, as stressed at Stockholm, and indicated ways in which UNESCO could promote an international debate on the appropriate strategies required in international negotiations, and on the contents and procedures of governmental action and a sector-specific debate on the situation of the cultural industries in different regions.

11. Concurrently, the broader goal of reshaping UNESCO's entire programme in the light of the Stockholm Conference was pursued in 1998-1999 through the work of the Intersectoral Committee on Cultural Policies for Development, chaired by Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, and an informal intersectoral Task Force on Cultural Policies for Development, chaired by the Assistant Director-General for Culture. In the light of the discussions carried out in these two bodies and in the context of the restructuring of the secretariat now being undertaken by the Director-General, a Division of Cultural Policies is being established in order to ensure a holistic approach in this domain, encompassing all dimensions of the culture programme.

12. In the meantime, the secretariat has reached out in various ways to the secretariats of the United Nations and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, in pursuance of the recommendation of the Stockholm Conference to the Director-General that he communicate the Action Plan to the heads of all the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to other intergovernmental organizations, both international and regional, with a view to seeking the inclusion of cultural policy objectives in all their development programmes and activities. In the summer of 1998, the Action Plan was sent to the heads of all United Nations system organizations with the intention of strengthening inter-agency cooperation in the field of culture and development. Many organizations responded positively by appointing focal points and indicated their readiness to plan joint actions with UNESCO. Since many agencies are, in fact, undertaking activities informed by the cultural perspective on development issues within the framework of their own mandates, UNESCO has also created a new Web page on its culture and development site, with links to all of the Internet pages of United Nations system organizations that illustrate their programmes/projects pertinent to culture and development. The new page was launched on 30 June 2000, marking the reality of the system-wide interaction called for in the Stockholm Action Plan.

13. Finally, UNESCO, having been invited in May 2000 by the Development Policy Analysis Division of the United Nations Secretariat, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, to provide comments on the Secretary-General's draft of a new international development strategy for 2001-2010, in response to General Assembly resolution 54/206, the secretariat suggested the inclusion of a separate section on culture and development, in the chapter on goals, policies and implementation measures, and appropriate language for the chapter on the major objectives of the strategy. It will be recalled that the Stockholm Action Plan requested the Director-General of UNESCO to pursue the goal of obtaining the integration of a cultural perspective into the next international development strategy.

United Nations A/55/340

General Assembly

Distr.: General
31 August 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Item 165 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*

Report of the Secretary-General**

I. Introduction

1. The present progress report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 54/106 of 9 December 1999, in which the Assembly took note of paragraph 33 of the 1999 report of the Secretary-General (A/54/363), commended him for his continued efforts to reduce the backlog in the publication of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*, and endorsed his efforts to eliminate the backlog in the publication of the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*.

2. In paragraph 33 of his 1999 report, the Secretary-General had called upon the General Assembly to:

(a) Note that volume VI of Supplement No. 6 to the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* had been published in August 1999 (English version);

(b) Note that volumes III (Articles 55-72) and IV (Articles 73-91) of Supplement No. 5 to the *Repertory* would be completed and published in 2000;

(c) Note that work had started on volumes I, II and V of Supplement No. 6 to the *Repertory*, which would be completed in the next biennium (2000-2001), while work on volumes III and IV of Supplement No. 6 to the *Repertory* would begin during 2000-2001;

(d) Note that those Secretariat units which had already completed their contribution to Supplement No. 6 to the *Repertory* might start work on Supplement No. 7 to the *Repertory*;

(e) Note that *Repertory*-related tasks were included as distinct activities within the relevant section of programme budgets of the Organization, starting with the biennium 2000-2001;

(f) Note that the eighth and ninth Supplements to the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* had been published in French and that the tenth Supplement was scheduled to be published in English by the beginning of 2000 and in French in the second half of 2000;

(g) Note that studies for the eleventh Supplement to the *Repertoire* were under preparation;

(h) Consider ways and means of eliminating the backlog in the *Repertoire*, taking into account the requirements for training, experience and continuity;

* A/55/150.

** The footnote requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/248 was not included in the submission.

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(i) Note the efforts of the Secretary-General to reduce the backlog of the Supplements to the *Repertory* and to the *Repertoire*.

II. *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*

A. Steps undertaken by the Secretariat to expedite the preparation of Supplements to the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*

1. Interdepartmental Committee on Charter Repertory

3. Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 54/106, the Interdepartmental Committee on Charter Repertory[1] held three meetings, inter alia, to review the status of the preparation of volumes III and IV of Supplement No. 5 (1970-1978), volumes I, II and V of Supplement No. 6 (1979-1984) as well as future priority volumes; to review the implementation of the work programme for the 2000-2001 biennium; and to continue the review of the Manual for the Preparation of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*.

(a) Review Committee of the Interdepartmental Committee on Charter Repertory

4. During the period under review, the Review Committee of the Interdepartmental Committee on Charter Repertory, consisting of the Office of Legal Affairs, the Department of Political Affairs and the respective coordinating and author departments, was convened to review volumes III and IV of Supplement No. 5. The Review Committee approved both volumes for publication. Such approval was subsequently communicated to the Interdepartmental Committee. The Review Committee was also convened to commence the review of studies for volume I of Supplement No. 6.

(b) Redistribution of *Repertory* studies allocated to Secretariat units

5. The allocation of *Repertory* studies to various Secretariat units, as modified in 1998 (A/53/386, para. 10) and 1999 (A/54/363, para. 6), was further amended by the Interdepartmental Committee on Charter Repertory in 2000, by joint agreement, to reflect the reallocation of the Repertory study for article 70, which had been initially allocated to the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. A portion of article 13 (1) (a) was also allocated to the Department of Political Affairs. An updated listing of departmental allocations is contained in annex I to the present report.

(c) Updating the Manual for the Preparation of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*

6. In 2000, the Interdepartmental Committee on Charter Repertory continued its consideration of the possible updating of the Manual for the Preparation of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*, as described in the 1999 report of the Secretary-General (A/54/363, paras. 7 and 8). The Committee continued its review of the Draft Guidelines on the Preparation and Submission of *Repertory* Draft Studies, prepared by the Office of Legal Affairs, in the light of its experience in 1999 and 2000 in connection with the preparation and submission of draft studies for volumes III and IV of Supplement No. 5, and with a view to eventual incorporation into the revised Manual.

2. Training seminars on preparing the *Repertory*, conducted by the Office of Legal Affairs

7. The Office of Legal Affairs, in its capacity as overall coordinator for the preparation of the *Repertory*, held a further three training seminars in 2000 (20 January, 28 February and 16 June) on the preparation of the *Repertory*. The seminars, held annually since 1998, were open to all participating Secretariat units with a view to adopting a common approach to researching and writing the *Repertory*. Further seminars will be held in the future as required.

3. Recourse to interns

8. As in previous years, resort to interns in the research and compilation of data for the preparation of draft *Repertory* studies continued to be an important element of the work on the *Repertory* during 2000. The Interdepartmental Committee continues to be of the view that the overall contribution of interns to the preparation of *Repertory* studies is constrained by the necessary training and oversight responsibilities required of supervisors. Furthermore, the two-month time limit placed on the period of service of interns continues to restrict their ability to make a substantial

contribution to the studies in question (see A/53/386, para. 13). The same considerations outlined in the previous report continued to apply in 2000.

9. However, it should be noted that changes to the internship programme are being considered. A new administrative instruction currently under preparation will allow the normal duration of internship to be extended to four months and as long as six months if there are special academic requirements or special needs of the receiving office. This change will be highly beneficial for future *Repertory*-related work.

B. Status of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*

1. Preparation of volumes referred to in paragraph 59 (b) of the 1997 report of the Secretary-General

10. In the 1999 report of the Secretary-General (A/54/363, paras. 15 and 16), it was reported that while volume VI of Supplement No. 6 had been published in August 1999, work on volumes III and IV of Supplement No. 5 was to be completed in 1999.

11. With regard to volume III of Supplement No. 5, the outstanding studies on the articles were completed and submitted to the Review Committee. The Review Committee approved the studies in mid-2000 and transmitted them to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (coordinating department of the volume), which submitted the volume for publication.

12. With regard to volume IV of Supplement No. 5, the studies in question were completed by the Department of Political Affairs and were submitted to the Review Committee for review and approval. The Review Committee approved the studies in mid-2000. The Department of Political Affairs (coordinating department of the volume) submitted the volume for publication.

13. Following the conclusion of work on volumes III and IV of Supplement No. 5, the Supplement is complete. However, owing to a longer than envisaged preparatory process and a heavy publication schedule during the second half of 2000, publication of both volumes is expected in early 2001. Once those volumes are published, the indexing of the entire Supplement No. 5 will be undertaken by the Department of Public Information, in 2001.

2. Preparation of volumes referred to in paragraph 33 (c) of the 1999 report of the Secretary-General

14. In paragraph 33 (c) of the 1999 report, the Secretary-General pointed out that work on volumes I (Articles 1-8) and II (Articles 9-22) and V (Articles 73-91) of Supplement No. 6 would be completed in the next biennium (2000-2001), while work on volumes III (Articles 23-54, 106, 107) and IV (Articles 55-72), would begin during 2000-2001.

15. With regard to volume I of Supplement No. 6, all of the studies have been completed and submitted for review and the volume as a whole will be approved by the Review Committee for publication by the end of 2000. It is anticipated that the volume will be published in 2001.

16. Concerning volume II of Supplement No. 6, work has progressed considerably and most of the studies will be completed by the end of 2000. It is anticipated that work on the volume will be finalized in the latter part of 2001.

17. Concerning volumes III and IV of Supplement No. 6, the Secretary-General reported in 1999 that it was not possible at that stage to make any definite projections on their completion. However, the Secretary-General is now in a position to report that work on both volumes has progressed during the current year, and that volume IV will be completed by the end of 2001.

18. Concerning volume V of Supplement No. 6, most of the substantial work has been completed. Subject to revisions and modifications, the volume will be finalized by mid-2001.

3. Work undertaken on future priority volumes

19. In 1999, the Secretary-General noted, in his report (A/54/363, para. 19), that those Secretariat units which had already completed their contribution to Supplement No. 6 might start work on Supplement No. 7, covering the period from 1 January 1985 to 31 December 1988. With regard to volumes II and VI of Supplement No. 7, the Office of Legal Affairs is in the process of completing its contribution during the current year. With regard to volume IV of Supplement No. 7, once the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has completed its portion of volume IV of Supplement No. 6 in the current year, it will begin

drafting its contribution to volume IV of Supplement No. 7. With regard to volume IV for subsequent Supplements, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs will advance its contribution to Supplements No. 8 (1 January 1990 to 31 December 1994) and No. 9 (1 January 1995 to 31 December 1999) of the volume by the end of the biennium 2002-2003, provided that adequate funds are made available.

4. Translation of Supplement No. 6, volume VI, into French and Spanish

20. Following the publication of volume VI of Supplement No. 6 in 1999 in English, the translation into the other two languages in which the *Repertory* is produced (French and Spanish) was commenced in 2000. It is expected that the French version of volume VI will be published at the end of 2000. It is expected that the Spanish version of volume VI will be produced before the end of 2000. With regard to volumes III and IV of Supplement No. 5, both volumes will be translated into French and Spanish in 2001.

5. Placement of *Repertory* volumes on the Internet

21. Taking into consideration the fact that several volumes of the *Repertory* are no longer available in printed form, a pilot project commenced in 2000 with a view to placing *Repertory* volumes on the Internet.

C. Assessment of action required

22. The Interdepartmental Committee on Charter Repertory noted that adequate budgetary resources should continue to be provided on a regular basis for *Repertory*-related tasks, with a view to eliminating the backlog and preventing future ones. For that purpose, the production of one *Repertory* volume per year should be required.

III. *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*

A. Status of the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*

1. Publication of the tenth Supplement

23. During the period under review, the tenth Supplement to the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*, covering the period 1985-1988, was published in English. It is expected that the translation of this Supplement into French will be completed by the end of 2000.

2. Preparation of the eleventh Supplement

24. Progress has been made in the preparation of the eleventh Supplement, which will reflect the increased volume of activity of the Security Council and its changing practice during the period 1989-1992.

3. Placement of the *Repertoire* on the Internet

25. As suggested by several Member States, the *Repertoire* and its 10 published Supplements, covering the period 1946-1988, have been placed on the Internet, in their English version. They are available on the web site of the United Nations (Department of Political Affairs, Security Council), as fully searchable files.

B. Elimination of the backlog in the publication of Supplements to the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*

26. Even though every effort has been made to use available resources in the most efficient way, recent experience has confirmed that the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch needs further strengthening if the next Supplements to the *Repertoire* are to be prepared in a timely manner.

27. It may be recalled that, in order to eliminate the existing backlog, two options were considered in paragraphs 29 and 30 of the previous report (A/54/363): the provision of voluntary contributions and the establishment of a specific training programme for junior Professionals.

1. Establishment of the Trust Fund for the Updating of the *Repertoire*

28. Thanks to a generous contribution from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a Trust Fund for the Updating of the *Repertoire* was established in May 2000 and an appeal for contributions from all Member States was subsequently made. The response to that appeal will largely govern the pace at which the backlog will be eliminated. Additional contributions are required to establish, on a temporary basis, a team of experts who would prepare the twelfth Supplement while the core staff of the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch would draft the following one, covering the most recent time period.

2. Recourse to interns and junior Professionals

29. The second option envisaged last year, namely the establishment of a training programme for junior Professionals, will be considered at a later stage, once the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch has obtained additional resources and enhanced its supervisory capacity. Meanwhile, it will use the services of interns and experts within the framework of existing programmes. An extension of the duration of the internships, as mentioned in paragraph 9 above, would greatly benefit the *Repertoire* as well as the *Repertory*.

3. Training of staff

30. As resources are being developed for the updating of the *Repertoire*, the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch is training newly recruited staff, who are assisting in the preparation of the eleventh Supplement. As a result, it is expected that the total time for drafting that Supplement will be held to four years, thus halting the trend towards a widening of the backlog.

IV. Conclusions

31. In the period under review, the Secretariat continued the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 52/161, 53/106 and 54/106 regarding the preparation of volumes III and IV of Supplement No. 5 and volumes I, II, III, IV and V of Supplement No. 6. Volumes III and IV of Supplement No. 5 were completed and are being processed for publication. Volume I of Supplement No. 6 has been completed and will be published in 2001. Volume II of Supplement No. 6 has progressed considerably and is expected to be finalized in the latter part of 2001. Work on volumes III and IV of Supplement No. 6 has also progressed during the current year and volume IV will be completed by the end of 2001. Volume V of Supplement No. 6 has also advanced and the work will be finalized by mid-2001. As regards Supplement No. 7 (covering the period from 1 January 1985 to 31 December 1988), work has started on volumes II and VI.

32. With respect to the *Repertoire*, progress has been made in the preparation of the eleventh Supplement (1989-1992), which should be completed within two years. A Trust Fund for the Updating of the *Repertoire* was established and an appeal for contributions has been made. Further support is needed to recruit an additional team of experts who would work simultaneously with the core staff of the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch on the next two Supplements. The development of a specific training programme for junior Professionals will be considered at a later stage, once the Branch has obtained the resources needed to enhance its supervisory capacity.

33. In the light of the above, the General Assembly may wish to:

(a) Note that volumes III (Articles 55-72) and IV (Articles 73-91) of Supplement No. 5 to the *Repertory* were completed in 2000 and will be published in 2001;

(b) Note that volume I of Supplement No. 6 of the *Repertory* has been completed and will be published in 2001, work has progressed considerably on volumes II, IV and V of Supplement No. 6 and will be completed by the end of the biennium 2000-2001, and work on volume III is in progress;

(c) Note that work has started on volumes II and VI of Supplement No. 7 and that work on volume IV of Supplement No. 7 will start in 2001;

(d) Note that *Repertory*-related tasks are included as distinct activities within the relevant sections of the programme budgets of the Organization;

(e) Note that the tenth Supplement of the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* has

been published in English and is being translated into French;

(f) Note that all published volumes of the *Repertoire* are available on the Internet;

(g) Note that a Trust Fund for the Updating of the *Repertoire* has been established and that additional contributions are needed to finance a project aimed at eliminating the current backlog through the simultaneous preparation of two Supplements;

(h) Note the efforts of the Secretary-General to reduce the backlog of the Supplements to the *Repertory* and to the *Repertoire*.

Notes

[1] The Committee is composed of representatives of all Secretariat units involved in the preparation of Supplements to the *Repertory* (see annex I) and is responsible for directing and overseeing the preparation and publication of those Supplements.

Annex I

Secretariat units bearing primary responsibility for the preparations of studies on individual provisions of the Charter of the United Nations

Office of Legal Affairs	Articles 1 (1), (3) and (4), 2 (1) to (3) and (5) to (7), 7, 13 (1) (a), 92 to 99, 102 to 105 and 108 to 111
Department of Political Affairs	Articles 1 (2), 2 (4), 3 to 6, 10, 12, 13 (1) (a), 14, 16, 23 to 39, 73 to 85, 87, 88 and 107
Department of Political Affairs with Department of Peacekeeping Operations	Articles 40 to 54 and 106
Department for Disarmament Affairs	Article 11
Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services	Articles 9, 15, 18, 20 to 22, 60, 61, 62 (3) and (4), 65 to 69, 72, 86, 89, 90 and 91
Department of Management	Articles 17, 19, 100 (1) and 101
Department of Management with Office of Legal Affairs	Article 100 (2)
Department of Economic and Social Affairs	Articles 8,[a] 13 (1) (b) and (2), 55 (a) and (b), 57 to 59, 62 (1), 63, 64, 70 and 71
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	Articles 13 (1) (b), 55 (c), 56 and 62 (2)
Office for Outer Space Affairs	Article 13 (1) (a)

[a] The Department of Management (Office of Human Resources Management) is responsible for the preparation of Article 8 for the period up to and including 1996. For the period 1997 onwards, that responsibility falls to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Annex II

Secretariat units responsible for the coordination of the preparation of *Repertory* volumes

Volume	*Department*
I. (Articles 1 to 8)	Office of Legal Affairs
II. (Articles 9 to 22)	Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services
III. (Articles 23 to 54, 106 and 107)	Department of Political Affairs
IV. (Articles 55 to 72)	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
V. (Articles 73 to 91)	Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services
VI. (Articles 92 to 105 and 108 to 111)	Office of Legal Affairs

United Nations A/55/341

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 August 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Item 110 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"**

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 54/141 of 17 December 1999. It provides an overview of the provisions and recommendations for action contained in the Political Declaration and the final outcome document, entitled "Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action", adopted by consensus at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, held in New York from 5 to 10 June 2000. The report focuses on areas where the Platform for Action has been strengthened and reinforced, on measures for its implementation at the national and international levels by Governments, the United Nations and its system of organizations, non-governmental organizations and other actors, and on those recommendations that have immediate implications for action at the international level, including those requiring consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

* A/55/150.

** Late submission of the report was owing to the recent conclusion of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report responds to the request by the General Assembly, in its resolution 54/141 of 17 December 1999, that the Secretary-General prepare for the consideration of the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", held at United Nations Headquarters from 5 to 10 June 2000.

2. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/231 of 4 June 1998, the Commission on the Status of Women acted as the preparatory committee for the special session of the Assembly and the Division for the Advancement of Women, under the guidance of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, served as the substantive secretariat. Preparations for the special session were undertaken at the national, regional and international levels and were characterized by collaboration among Governments, the United Nations Secretariat and the organizations of the United Nations system, and by the involvement and strong support of other intergovernmental organizations, as well as an extremely broad spectrum of non-governmental actors at the national, regional and international levels.

3. Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action[1] has been ongoing since the convening of the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. By June 2000, 120 national action plans and strategies for implementation of the Platform for Action had been submitted by Governments. An analysis of these was reviewed by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-second, forty-third and forty-fourth sessions (E/CN.6/1998/6, E/CN.6/1999/2/Add.1 and E/CN.6/2000/2). In addition, consideration of the implementation of the strategic objectives and activities set forth for each of the critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action by Governments, intergovernmental bodies, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations was part of the work programme of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women during the period from 1996 to 1999. As at 1 June 2000, 151 Governments had responded to the questionnaire on implementation of the Platform for Action, prepared in October 1998 by the Secretariat in collaboration with the five regional commissions. These served as a principal input to the review and appraisal report submitted to the Preparatory Committee (E/CN.6/2000/PC/2 and Corr.2-3). During this period, several critical decisions were taken by the Council to strengthen the implementation of the Platform for Action, including agreed conclusions 1997/2 adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 18 July 1997,[2] and Council resolutions 1998/43 of 31 July 1998 and 2000/26 of 28 July 2000. Important decisions were also reached by the Commission on the Status of Women which has adopted a number of agreed conclusions and resolutions since its thirty-ninth session to accelerate implementation of the Platform for Action.[3]

4. Preparatory meetings were held in each of the five regional commissions, in response to General Assembly resolution 54/142 of 17 December 1999, which encouraged all regional commissions to carry out activities in support of the preparatory process in order to ensure a regional perspective on implementation and on further actions and initiatives. These meetings, which assessed the extent of regional implementation and drew up regional action plans, were held at Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Beirut, Geneva and Lima.

5. Many expert group meetings and seminars were organized by Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations on aspects of the 12 critical areas of the Platform for Action, as part of preparations for the special session. These included an expert group meeting to identify emerging issues, trends and new approaches, convened by the Division for the Advancement of Women and hosted by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) at Beirut, from 8 to 10 November 1999.

6. During the eight-month period prior to the special session, intensive preparatory and coordination work took place at several levels. The Deputy Secretary-General chaired several sessions of the Meeting of United Nations and agency officials on the special session. The Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women established the Inter-agency Steering Committee for the Special Session, and the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women met on a regular basis with representatives of key non-governmental organizations.

7. The special session was presided over by the President and Vice-Presidents of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly. During its plenary meetings, statements were focused on both the progress made and the remaining obstacles to the implementation of the Platform for Action. The plenary was addressed by 178 Member States, including two prime ministers, four vice-presidents, ministers and vice-ministers. Representatives of 3 non-Member States, 16 observers, 5 heads of United Nations programmes and specialized agencies, 5 non-governmental organizations and the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women also addressed the plenary.

8. The special session was attended by a large number of participants from Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the media. In addition, approximately 2,400 participants from non-governmental organizations registered for activities held outside the United Nations facilities. The special session also included many side events, panels, presentations and exhibitions organized by Governments, United Nations departments and agencies, and non-governmental organizations. The Commission on the Status of Women, acting as Preparatory Committee, sponsored three of the panels.

II. Implementation of and follow-up to the platform for action

A. Political Declaration and outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

9. By resolutions S-23/2 and S/23/3 of 10 June 2000, the General Assembly adopted by consensus the Political Declaration and the final outcome document, entitled "Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration[4] and platform for action" of its twenty-third special session. In the Political Declaration, Governments reaffirmed their commitment to the goals and objectives outlined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and called for the implementation of the agreed conclusions and resolutions on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women since its thirty-ninth session. Governments recognized that they have primary responsibility for the full implementation of all commitments for the advancement of women and called for continued international cooperation. The Political Declaration further emphasized that men must involve themselves and take joint responsibility with women for the promotion of gender equality. The commitment of Governments to overcome obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Platform for Action and to strengthening and safeguarding a national and international enabling environment, inter alia, through the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes and promoting women's full participation and empowerment was highlighted. Governments agreed to regularly assess further implementation of the Platform for Action with a view to bringing together all parties involved in 2005 to assess progress and consider new initiatives, as appropriate, 10 years after the adoption of the Platform for Action and 20 years after the adoption of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.[5]

10. The outcome document outlines further actions and initiatives that need to be taken to ensure the full implementation of the Platform for Action in the context of global changes, new challenges and obstacles, and increased knowledge and experience accumulated on important gender equality issues during the past five years. The Political Declaration and the outcome document complement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action which remain the basis for global action to promote gender equality, development and peace. Implementation of and follow-up to the Platform for Action and the outcome document should occur in tandem.

11. The Political Declaration and outcome document reaffirm the commitment by Governments to the global agenda for gender equality and women's empowerment established in 1995 in the Platform for Action and signify a recommitment to all 12 critical areas of concern. Governments agreed on 199 actions to be taken at national, regional and international levels by Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector, the media, trade unions and other actors. In a large number of areas, the commitment to women's empowerment and gender

mainstreaming was significantly strengthened and the complementarity between gender mainstreaming and special activities targeting women was confirmed. Many of the actions adopted a more focused or specific approach than in the Platform for Action, while others addressed areas that have emerged or become prominent since the Fourth World Conference on Women.

12. Emphasis was placed on women's access to decision-making at all levels, gender-sensitive approaches to human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS); a gender perspective on macro-economic policies and programmes, including budget processes; violence against women, including trafficking of women and girls and in armed conflict; and the realization of women's full enjoyment of economic, social, cultural and political rights. Actions also addressed the challenges presented by globalization to the implementation of the Platform for Action.

13. A number of important new targets are set in the outcome document and some existing targets were reaffirmed. These are:

(a) Closure of the gender gap in primary and secondary education by 2005, and ensuring free compulsory and universal primary education for both girls and boys by 2015;

(b) The achievement of a 50 per cent improvement in the levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women, by continuing to support and strengthen national, regional and international adult literacy programmes;

(c) The creation and maintenance of a non-discriminatory and gender-sensitive legal environment by reviewing legislation with a view to striving to remove discriminatory provisions as soon as possible, preferably by 2005;

(d) Universal access to high quality primary health care throughout the life cycle, including sexual and reproductive health care, not later than 2015;

(e) The goal of 50/50 gender balance in all posts in the organizations of the United Nations system, including at the Professional level and above.

14. While reaffirming the strategic objectives with respect to violence against women, the outcome document, inter alia, emphasizes that violence against women and girls should be treated as a criminal offence punishable by law, that legislation should be established and/or appropriate mechanisms strengthened to handle criminal matters relating to all forms of domestic violence, and that measures should be taken to address through policies and programmes racism and racially motivated violence against women and girls.

15. With regard to trafficking in women and girls, Governments are requested to take measures to prevent the prosecution of trafficked women including the setting up or strengthening of a national coordinating mechanism, for example, a national rapporteur or inter-agency body, with participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to encourage the exchange of information and report on data, root causes, factors and trends in violence against women, in particular trafficking. Support for the ongoing negotiations on a draft protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which is to supplement the draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime was to be provided by Governments and other actors, and national, regional and international strategies to reduce the risk to women and girls, including those who are refugees and displaced persons, as well as women migrant workers, of becoming victims of trafficking, were, as appropriate, to be pursued and supported. The introduction of an international "zero tolerance" campaign on violence against women was to be considered, as well as public campaigns to enhance public awareness of the unacceptability and social costs of violence.

16. In the context of women and armed conflict, awareness and knowledge of the Statute of the International Criminal Court adopted in Rome in June 1998 is advocated, as well as consideration of signing and ratifying that instrument. Policies and programmes for the protection of children, especially girls, during hostilities are to be developed and supported, in order to prohibit their forced recruitment and to promote and/or strengthen mechanisms for their rehabilitation and reintegration.

17. In the area of health, there is a clear strengthening of commitment with the identification of the reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality as a health sector priority, the recognition of gender aspects of diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency

syndrome (HIV/AIDS) which have a disproportionate impact on women's health, and the inclusion of women's access to health services as an issue for health sector reform initiatives, in particular rural and urban health service delivery to women living in poverty. With regard to sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS, the outcome document recommends the development of female-controlled methods and voluntary and confidential HIV testing and counselling, as well as the development of vaccines, diagnosis and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases. The need to design and implement programmes for men on safe and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour was also highlighted. The outcome document also endorses the agreement on abortion contained in the Platform for Action and in paragraph 8.25 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.[6]

18. Particular reference to the feminization of poverty and the need to assess the links between macroeconomic policies and gender is included in the outcome document. It indicates that globalization, structural adjustment policies, economic transition, trade liberalization and external debt servicing have differential impacts on women and men, with a particularly strong negative impact on women in poverty. The outcome document also urges the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all national policies and programmes on poverty eradication, as well as into macroeconomic policies and programmes. It underlines the importance of information and communications technology to enhance the employability of women and their access to quality jobs and encourages the education of girls in new technologies and technical subjects.

19. The outcome document recognizes that explicit attention to the goals of gender equality, development and peace in budgetary processes at national, regional and international levels is essential and calls for the incorporation of a gender perspective into the design, development, adoption and execution of all budgetary processes, as appropriate, and the establishment of adequate budgetary allocations to support gender equality and development programmes that enhance women's empowerment. It calls for specific measures to achieve women's equal participation in macroeconomic decision-making, and for measures to promote and implement women's rights through women's equal access to and control over economic resources, including land, property rights, right to inheritance, credit and traditional saving schemes.

20. In respect of the political empowerment of women, the outcome document highlights the importance of increasing women's representation in key bodies and processes at both the national and international levels. Governments are urged to set time-bound targets or measurable goals, including, where appropriate quotas, for achieving women's equal access to and full participation at all levels of public life, in particular the participation of indigenous women and older women. The outcome document encourages the involvement of women in decision-making at all levels and the achievement of gender balance, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical representation, in all appointments of special envoys and special representatives and of those pursuing good offices on behalf of the Secretary-General. It also stresses that women be involved at all levels of decision-making in development activities and peace processes carried out by the United Nations.

21. Institutional aspects, including mandates, strategies, mechanisms and resources, which are critical for creating an enabling environment at national, regional and international levels for the implementation of the Platform for Action, are addressed specifically in the outcome document.

22. The gender mainstreaming strategy endorsed in the Platform for Action is strongly reaffirmed and the importance of political commitment to gender mainstreaming is highlighted. The gender mainstreaming mandate of Governments and all international and regional organizations, including the United Nations, is reinforced and the focus broadened and enhanced significantly in a number of areas, for example, in relation to national development planning, social development policies and programmes, macroeconomic policies and national development programmes, budgetary processes, debt-servicing problems of developing countries and in reports to and the work of treaty bodies. Particular attention is given to taking gender dimensions into account in all peace support operations, including all aspects of conflict prevention and resolution, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building, disarmament, humanitarian assistance and post-conflict reconstruction.

23. The outcome document re-emphasizes the important role of national machineries for the

promotion of gender equality through facilitating the development, adoption and monitoring of policies, legislation, programmes and capacity-building for the empowerment of women and acting as catalysts for open public dialogue on gender equality as a societal goal. Governments are called upon to establish or reinforce existing institutional mechanisms and to strengthen the capacity of national machineries to mainstream the gender perspective in order to accelerate the empowerment of women through, inter alia, providing national machineries with the necessary resources, including through exploration of innovative funding schemes. The outcome document also encourages the development of a South-South cooperation programme to share expertise, experiences and knowledge with a view to assisting in the capacity-building of national machineries on women. The document established clear recommendations on strengthening and supporting gender units and focal points and highlighted the importance of gender-sensitive training.

24. Cooperation and coordination on the implementation of and follow-up to the Platform for Action and the outcome document at the national, regional and international levels are emphasized. Governments are also invited to strengthen their partnerships with non-governmental organizations, civil society, trade unions, the media and the private sector. In a number of critical areas, Governments, intergovernmental bodies and the United Nations and other international organizations are invited to establish mechanisms of collaboration that include non-governmental organizations and civil society, for example, in developing an international consensus on indicators and ways to measure violence against women, intensifying cooperation between States of origin, transit and destination to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and encouraging partnerships and cooperation with regard to poverty eradication initiatives focused on women and girls.

25. The outcome document called for continued international cooperation to increase the flow of resources for the achievement of the goals of the Platform for Action, including the reaffirmation to strive to fulfil the yet to be attained internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product of developed countries for overall official development assistance, and support for the Cologne initiative for the reduction of debt and the 20/20 initiative. The identification and achievement of development-oriented and durable solutions that integrate a gender perspective into external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries was called for, inter alia, through debt relief, in order to help developing countries to finance programmes and projects targeted at development, including the advancement of women.

B. Implementation and follow-up at the national level

1. Action by Governments

26. The responsibility of Governments for implementing the Platform for Action and the recommendations in the outcome document was stated in the Political Declaration and the outcome document (General Assembly resolutions S-23/2, annex, and S-23/3, annex). Governments, with assistance from regional and international organizations as needed, are called upon, for example, to: incorporate a gender perspective as a dimension of development into national development planning; strengthen efforts to fully implement national action plans for the implementation of the Platform for Action, including through the establishment of action-oriented programmes and measures with clear targets and evaluation mechanisms; and strengthen or establish, where appropriate, national collaborative and regular reporting mechanisms, with the participation of non-governmental organizations, to monitor progress made towards the achievement of gender equality.

27. Governments are called upon to design and implement policies that promote and protect women's enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and a gender-sensitive legal environment, including through the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention, and ensure that national legislative and administrative reform processes take measures to promote the rights of women through access to and control over economic resources.

28. To support the implementation of the recommendations on the 12 critical areas of the Platform for Action and the recommendations in the outcome document, Governments are called upon to

provide national statistical offices with institutional and financial support so as to provide policy makers and the public with the statistics and indicators required for gender-based analysis, monitoring and impact assessment; develop national capacity to undertake policy-oriented and gender-related research and impact studies by universities and research/training institutes; ensure that the design of all government information policies and strategies is gender-sensitive; strengthen awareness-raising campaigns and other efforts to eliminate gender stereotypes; and strengthen gender equality training, and encourage and implement curriculum changes in training for public officials to make them fully gender-sensitive.

2. Action by the United Nations system

29. There was agreement that organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, we well as the World Trade Organization and regional entities, should support the efforts by Governments in the implementation of the Platform for Action and, where appropriate, develop complementary programmes of their own. The role of non-governmental organizations and other actors in civil society was also re-emphasized.

C. Implementation and follow-up at the international level

1. Action by intergovernmental bodies and treaty bodies

30. Governments agreed in the Political Declaration to assess regularly further implementation of the Platform for Action. The three-tiered intergovernmental structure established in the Platform for Action and by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/203 of 22 December 1995 for monitoring the implementation of the Platform for Action, including gender mainstreaming, that is, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, remains in place. Modalities for enhancing the follow-up to the Platform for Action and the complementary outcome document will be considered by all intergovernmental bodies.

(a) General Assembly

31. Regular reporting to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women should continue to be the primary mechanism for providing information on follow-up to the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome document. The Special Adviser for Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women, in collaboration with the Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, will continue to identify new ways and means of making these reports effective instruments for monitoring progress by intergovernmental bodies.

32. The Platform for Action confirmed the principal policy-making and appraisal responsibilities of the General Assembly on matters relating to the follow-up to implementation. As such, the Assembly should continue to incorporate gender perspectives throughout its work. The Assembly may wish to strengthen follow-up to the implementation of the Platform for Action and the agreements reached in the outcome document by ensuring it is an integral part of the work of all of its committees.

(b) Economic and Social Council

33. The role of the Economic and Social Council in promoting gender mainstreaming and overseeing system-wide coordination was endorsed in the Platform for Action and, accordingly, the Council has developed a systematic focus on gender equality as a cross-cutting issue. The General Assembly may wish to invite the Council to continue to review the implementation of the Platform for Action and to review that of the outcome document, taking into account the reports of the Commission on the Status of Women, and make recommendations in that regard, and to require that all future reports submitted to the Council fully incorporate a gender perspective.

34. Based on the experience gained over the past five years, the high-level coordination, humanitarian and operational activities segments of the work of the Council provide opportunities to further policy coordination and inter-agency cooperation towards the achievement of the objectives of the Platform for Action and the outcome document. In paragraph 5 of its agreed conclusions 2000/2 of 27 July 2000,[7] the Council reiterated that it would continue to promote a better coordination among the functional commissions. In this regard, the General Assembly may wish to invite the Council, on the basis of the recommendation contained in paragraph 321 of the Platform for Action,

to encourage all functional commissions to strengthen the integration of gender aspects in their respective programmes of work. The work already done in this regard, for example, by the Commission on Population and Development or the Commission on Human Rights, could serve as examples of good practice for the other commissions.

35. The efforts of the Economic and Social Council to support an integrated and coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits could reinforce the cross-cutting nature of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and ensure the full incorporation of that outcome in the follow-up activities of all organizations of the United Nations system. In its coordination segment in 2000, the Council for the first time undertook a comprehensive assessment of conference review processes. In its efforts to improve future review processes, the Council, in paragraph 8 of its agreed conclusions 2000/2, invited its relevant functional commissions to consider options for enhancing the reviews of the major United Nations conferences and summits, and to inform the Council for its consideration at its substantive session in 2001 of the outcome of their discussion. The views and experience of the Commission on the Status of Women serving as preparatory committee for the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly should provide a valuable contribution to this discussion.

(c) Commission on the Status of Women

36. The Commission on the Status of Women, as the principal intergovernmental body responsible for issues of gender equality, will continue to assist the Economic and Social Council in the follow-up to the implementation of the Platform for Action and to assist also in the implementation of the outcome document. The Commission will be drawing up its new work programme at its forty-fifth session, to be held in March 2001, and determining its role in the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly and the further implementation of the Platform for Action, and as well as the implementation of the outcome document. In view of the importance given to gender equality issues in other conference review processes, such as the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly, on the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the Assembly on the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and beyond, attention should be placed on increased synergy with the other functional commissions.

37. The preparation of the new multi-year work programme of the Commission on the Status of Women provides an opportunity for increasing such synergy. The Commission is expected to consider the modalities for maximizing its contribution to the follow-up to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including through monitoring of implementation, policy development with respect to the critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action, and the Political Declaration and the outcome document arising from the special session. Consideration should also be given as to how the Commission could best contribute to other review processes, such as the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly in 2001 on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)[8] and any future conference and summit reviews, such as the review in 2001 of the implementation of Agenda 21[9] and of the outcome of the World Summit for Children (A/45/625, annex), as well as to other important events, such as the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the high-level intergovernmental event on financing for development. The Commission may also consider the types of input it wishes to obtain from other commissions to its own work.

38. The Secretary-General intends to put forward proposals to the Commission on the Status of Women at its next session to assist it in developing its work programme to support implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome document, including the strengthening of its catalytic role in mainstreaming a gender perspective in United Nations activities, as well as proposals on how secretariat support to the Commission can be enhanced, in particular in terms of supporting collaboration with other functional commissions and the organizations of the United Nations system in the integrated follow-up to global conferences and summits.

39. The General Assembly may wish to invite the Economic and Social Council to review and strengthen the mandate of the Commission on the Status of

Women, so as to enable it to continue to play a central role, within the United Nations system, in monitoring and advancing the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome document, and in assisting the Council in that regard.

(d) Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

40. The important role of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in ensuring the human rights of women was highlighted in the Platform for Action, and the outcome document underscored the need for human rights activities to take into account a gender perspective.

41. Following the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Committee reflected on its role in support of the implementation of the Platform for Action, including through the amendment of its reporting guidelines. The Committee is expected to consider the implications for its work of the agreements reached in the outcome document.

42. One of the commitments of the Platform for Action, the elaboration of the Optional Protocol to the Convention, was fulfilled when the General Assembly, by resolution 54/4 of 6 October 1999, adopted it and opened it for signature, ratification and accession. At the time of preparation of the present report, the Optional Protocol had been ratified or acceded to by five States parties and will enter into force three months after the receipt of five further ratifications. The Secretary-General will continue to provide coordinated secretariat support to the Committee so as to enable it to fulfil all of its tasks in accordance with article 17 (9) of the Convention, including its second annual session.

43. The specific demands made upon the Division for the Advancement of Women as a result of the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women concern the two procedures it established, including that for individual communications and enquiries. The Division will be required to support the Committee in its determination of admissibility of individual communications, interim measures in urgent cases, consideration of the merits of communications, and follow-up procedures. With regard to the enquiry procedure established by article 8 of the Optional Protocol, the Division will be required to support the Committee in administering that procedure, which may involve visits to the State party concerned.

44. The outcome document also envisages the provision by the United Nations of assistance to States parties, upon their request, in building capacity to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It is expected that States parties will require assistance with regard to the reporting procedure established by the Convention, and with respect to the procedures established by the Protocol. Together, the effective implementation of the procedures envisaged under the Optional Protocol and the necessary capacity-building requested by States parties will have requirements that need to be assessed in the light of Assembly resolution 54/4, in which the Secretary-General is requested to provide the staff and facilities necessary for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women under the Protocol after its entry into force, bearing in mind that the promotion of the enjoyment by women of their human rights is central to the overall efforts for the advancement of their status.

2. Action by the United Nations and its system of organizations

(a) United Nations

45. The commitment of the Secretary-General to continue to coordinate policy within the United Nations for the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome document, through the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and for encouraging assessment of the policy, operational and institutional implications of the outcome document for all parts of the United Nations system is clear. The Secretary-General will continue to take a leadership role in the systematic follow-up to and evaluation of the gender mainstreaming mandate throughout the United Nations system, as outlined in the Platform for Action, agreed conclusions 1997/2 adopted by the Economic and Social Council, and reinforced in the outcome document, including the consideration of the resource implications of gender mainstreaming at both policy and operational levels. The development of

benchmarks for assessing future progress in gender mainstreaming should be supported.

46. Taking into account the importance of increasing participation of women in decision-making processes at all levels, and in particular at the highest levels, the Secretary-General will encourage Governments and the organizations of the United Nations system to consider gender balance alongside geographical representation in the nomination of candidates to all bodies, such as committees and commissions, and as participants in United Nations activities, for example, expert group meetings and workshops. The Secretary-General, with the assistance of Governments, will seek to ensure implementation of the recommendation in the outcome document that appointments of special representatives and special envoys and of persons to any other positions that pursue good offices on behalf of the Secretary-General take into account gender balance as well as ability and equitable geographical representation.

47. The outcome document reinforces the important role of the departments and offices of the United Nations Secretariat outlined both directly and indirectly in the Platform for Action. Renewed efforts will be made by all departments and offices to reflect both the Platform for Action and the outcome document in their policies and programmes. A gender perspective should be explicitly reflected in medium-term plans, programme budgets, and programme performance reports and evaluations. Planning, budgeting and internal oversight processes are key elements in this regard, and departments and offices working in these areas should increase the attention paid to gender perspective. The General Assembly may wish to invite the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to take greater account of gender perspective in budgeting processes and increase attention to a gender perspective in medium-term plans, programme budgets and programme performance reports and evaluations.

48. The inextricable links between peace, and equality between women and men, and the need for women to participate fully in all efforts for the prevention and resolution of conflicts were recognized by the Security Council in the statement issued by its President on 8 March 2000 and in its resolution 1314 (2000) of 11 August 2000. In this connection, and as noted above, the gender mainstreaming mandate with regard to peace-support operations, humanitarian support and disarmament has been strengthened significantly in the outcome document. Consequently, departments working in these areas are expected to accelerate their efforts, in collaboration with all relevant parts of the United Nations system, to incorporate a gender perspective as an integral part of all substantive work, policies and programmes, in particular in the preparation of reports of individual missions submitted to the Security Council, and provide gender-sensitive training in peacekeeping operations for all actors in these areas. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, and other relevant intergovernmental bodies should be encouraged to support and monitor this work.

49. Pursuant to paragraph 331 of the Platform for Action, parts of the Secretariat involved in human resource management have a key responsibility in developing strategies to meet the goal of 50/50 gender balance between women and men on posts at the Professional level and above in order to improve the status of women in the Secretariat and in facilitating increased attention to training programmes to develop capacity on gender mainstreaming.

50. The important contribution of regional activities to the realization of conference goals is also recognized in the outcome document which encourages the Economic and Social Council to request the regional commissions to build up a database on all programmes and projects carried out in their respective regions by agencies or organizations of the United Nations system, and to facilitate their dissemination, as well as the evaluation of their impact on the empowerment of women through the implementation of the Platform for Action. The regional commissions should continue to facilitate regional implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Platform for Action and the outcome document, including through the provision of support to women's empowerment and increased gender mainstreaming in all activities of the regional commissions and the development of programmes to support the objectives of the Platform for Action and the outcome document.

(b) United Nations system

51. The outcome document reiterates the call in the Platform for Action for the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as the World Trade Organization, within their mandates, to

support governmental efforts and, as appropriate, to develop complementary programmes of their own to achieve full and effective implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome document. The specific implications of the outcome document for work programmes should be considered as a high priority within each entity. In this regard, attention is drawn to the statement by the Administrative Committee on Coordination submitted to the General Assembly at its special session, which identified commitments to intensified action in support of implementation of the Platform for Action and gender mainstreaming (A/S-23/8, annex).

52. The United Nations system, along with other international and regional organizations, is called upon in paragraph 353 of the Platform for Action to allocate adequate financial resources to national programmes for the implementation of the Platform for Action in its 12 critical areas. The outcome document further requests that these bodies, upon request, assist Governments in: incorporating a gender perspective into national development planning, building institutional capacity and developing national action plans or further implementing existing action plans for the implementation of the Platform for Action; developing gender-sensitive strategies for the delivery of assistance and, where appropriate, responses to humanitarian crises resulting from armed conflict and natural disasters; and building capacity to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The United Nations, and other regional and international organizations, including financial institutions, are called upon to assist Governments in their efforts to institute action-oriented programmes and measures to accelerate the full implementation of the Platform for Action, with time-bound targets and/or measurable goals and evaluation methods, including gender impact assessments, with full participation of women; developing methods for and compiling statistics on the contributions of women and men to society and the economy, and the socio-economic situation of women and men, in particular in relation to poverty.

53. The outcome document calls upon the United Nations system to continue to implement and follow-up the mandated work to mainstream gender perspectives into all policy-making, planning processes and programmes, as outlined in agreed conclusions adopted by the Economic and Social Council, including through the integrated and coordinated follow-up to all major United Nations conferences and summits and to ensure the allocation of sufficient resources and maintenance of gender units and focal point to achieve this end and to provide training on gender mainstreaming to all United Nations staff and ensure appropriate follow-up to such training.

54. The efforts of the United Nations system to support the implementation of and follow-up to the Platform for Action and the outcome document will continue to be elaborated in the system-wide medium-term plan. The preparation of the plan for 2001-2005, scheduled to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council in 2001 through the Commission on the Status of Women, will provide an opportunity to build upon the lessons learned in the preparation and implementation of previous plans and to devise strategies and approaches that will most effectively lead to a coordinated, system-wide follow-up, which would include the integration of the actions and initiatives set forth in the outcome document in the work programmes of the entities of the United Nations system.

55. In the outcome document, United Nations organizations working with development activities are called upon to ensure that a gender perspective is incorporated into all operational activities and that women participate fully at all levels of decision-making and implementation, including as resident coordinators. The implications of the strong focus in the outcome document on gender mainstreaming need to be considered in relation to the development of common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Framework. Entities within the United Nations Secretariat dealing with social development also have a particularly important role to play in this regard. In addition, the outcome document reaffirms the need to give attention to women as well as men in development-oriented approaches to disarmament.

56. Given the increased focus in the outcome document on the importance of incorporating a gender perspective into macroeconomic policies and programme development, including budgets and debt relief, and trade activities, as well as the specific call for the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization to support governmental efforts and, where appropriate, develop complementary programmes of their own, the Administrative

Committee on Coordination, including its Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, should encourage and support the heads of United Nations system entities, including the relevant departments and offices of the Secretariat, to achieve full implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome document.

57. Pursuant to paragraph 326 of the Platform for Action and General Assembly resolution 50/203, the Secretary-General established a high-level post of Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women. The incumbent advises the Secretary-General on global gender equality issues and advocates and is responsible for monitoring the incorporation of a gender perspective into the overall policy goals and programmes of the Organization, in conjunction with the work of the Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, and identifying and advising the Secretary-General on issues of particular concern to women globally or in specific areas, including through undertaking inter-agency missions, such as the mission to Afghanistan in 1997. In addition, the Special Adviser oversees and guides the activities of the Division for the Advancement of Women in the implementation of the Platform for Action and other mandates. Another of the major functions of the Special Adviser is to advise and assist in the design of policies and strategies to achieve the targets for improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat and foster improved working conditions, in cooperation with the Office of Human Resources Management and departmental programme managers. The Special Adviser will continue to have a critical role in advising the Secretary-General and in carrying out her other responsibilities.

58. Within the United Nations system, the Administrative Committee on Coordination will continue to play a key role in contributing to the coordinated implementation of the Platform for Action and outcome document at the regional and national levels, through the Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, chaired by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women. The statement submitted by the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the General Assembly at its special session (A/S-23/8), together with the mandates provided in the outcome document, provide the basis for strengthened incorporation of a gender perspective into the work of all United Nations entities and contribute to the integrated follow-up to global conferences.

59. The Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, with a membership of over 60 representatives of United Nations agencies, funds, programmes, and departments and offices of the Secretariat, has worked with other subsidiary bodies of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, especially the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions, the Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development and the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions, to assign higher priority to gender issues in their work. It is expected that the Administrative Committee on Coordination, in particular through such subsidiary bodies as the Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, will continue to coordinate efforts to attain fully gender equality goals and incorporate a gender perspective into the work of the organizations of the United Nations system.

60. The Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality will continue to support and monitor the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome document throughout the United Nations system. Although progress in gender mainstreaming has been achieved during the five years since the Fourth World Conference on Women, more work needs to be done, in particular in terms of supporting the existing gender focal point systems and developing adequate training programmes.

61. Some agencies have reported that they are incorporating decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session into their ongoing work programmes for the implementation of the Platform for Action. These will be further elaborated in the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women. Special attention will be paid to those aspects of the Platform for Action that were highlighted or strengthened in the outcome document. The Inter-agency Committee also intends to look more closely at collaboration and coordination efforts in the new system-wide medium-term plan in the areas of eliminating violence against women, incorporating a gender perspective and increasing the participation of women in peacekeeping and peacemaking processes, and developing a more routine way of involving women and girls fully in new information technologies and in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The Inter-agency Committee, under the

guidance of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and in collaboration with relevant human resource management bodies, will increase the attention given to developing policies and strategies for promoting equal opportunities, including gender balance, throughout the United Nations system.

62. The adoption of the outcome document provides new opportunities and creates new demands for the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs as the principal entity within the United Nations Secretariat dealing with the promotion of gender equality. It will allow the Division to strengthen the incorporation of a gender perspective into policy formulation and coordination, and the substantive servicing of intergovernmental machinery and treaty bodies, especially the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and through gender advisory services. The effective substantive support of the intergovernmental machinery requires, however, the involvement and cooperation of all organizations of the United Nations system. The Division will therefore continue to play a crucial role in maintaining collaboration with all parts of the United Nations system, including through the Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality.

63. New demands will also be created in respect of the substantive servicing of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, with particular attention being required in relation to the Committee's functions under the Optional Protocol. The Division, together with other relevant United Nations and other bodies, will also be called on to provide assistance to States parties, upon their request, in building capacity to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The outcome document builds upon the Platform for Action, as well as previous and subsequent intergovernmental decisions, in highlighting the importance of elimination of violence against women. In this regard, the Division will need to enhance its capacity, including through the development and expansion of its database on the subject. The Division, being responsible for the substantive servicing of the Committee, has a key role to play in coordinating activities with regard to the Convention and the Committee, including with respect to capacity-building for governmental officials and other actors. In this context, the human and financial resource implications of the outcome of the special session should be considered, building upon the request, in paragraph 327 of the Platform for Action, that sufficient human and financial resources be ensured for the Division within the regular budget of the United Nations.

64. The mandate of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) was outlined in paragraph 335 of the Platform for Action as increasing options and opportunities for women's economic and social development in developing countries by providing technical and financial assistance to incorporate the women's dimension into development, focusing on women's political and economic empowerment, two areas in which the discussions at the special session highlighted the need for much increased attention.

65. The Assembly may wish to encourage UNIFEM to continue to play a key role in implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome document at the country level, including through the UNIFEM gender specialists in the field, by consolidating its operational role in promoting women's economic and political empowerment, and continuing to support women's organizations in order to increase leadership opportunities for women in all areas of societal development. Within its mandate, and pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 54/134 and 54/136 of 17 December 1999, UNIFEM should also continue its priority focus on facilitating work at the country level on the elimination of violence against women in the broader context of promotion of women's human rights, as well as its support for strengthening the capacities of women living in conflict situations and the promotion of women's enhanced role and participation in peace processes.

66. The mandate of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), as outlined in paragraph 334 of the Platform for Action, to promote research and training on women's situations and development has been reinforced by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1999/54 of 29 July 1999, in which the Council called for the adoption of a new approach to research, training and communication through increased use of new information and communication technologies and General Assembly resolution 54/140 of 17 December 1999, on the revitalization and strengthening of INSTRAW.

67. The new approach to the implementation of the mandate of INSTRAW, the development of the gender awareness information networking system, is acknowledged in the outcome document and has been endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2000/24 of 28 July 2000, in which the Council urged the provision of financial support so that INSTRAW could continue planning beyond 2000, and urged the Institute to continue to explore new and innovative means of funding. It is expected that INSTRAW will continue to develop further phases of the networking project and to seek funding from non-traditional sources.

68. As can be noted from paragraphs 30 to 67 above, implementation measures would be required by the United Nations and its system of organizations following the adoption by the General Assembly of the Political Declaration and the outcome document. At the time of preparation of the present report, it was not possible to complete all consultations concerning resource requirements, in particular given the uncertainties regarding the workload associated with the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. At the time of consideration of the report by the General Assembly, it is expected that programme budget implications in relation to other United Nations programmes will be provided.

D. Role of non-governmental organizations

69. The twenty-third special session of the General Assembly was characterized by the broad involvement of civil society in its preparation and the participation of a large number of non-governmental organizations at the special session itself. A total of 2,042 participants, representing 1,038 non-governmental organizations, attended the special session, including 272 organizations accredited by the General Assembly. In recognition of the critical contribution of non-governmental organizations, the outcome document urges the active support and participation of a broad and diverse range of institutional actors, and calls for cooperation and partnerships between Governments, the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society in the implementation of and follow-up to the Platform for Action and the outcome document.

70. The General Assembly may wish to give consideration to the means of promoting the effective implementation of the provisions of the Platform for Action relating to non-governmental organizations, including the strengthening of mechanisms to enhance collaboration with them.

III. Beyond the special session: recommendations for action by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session

71. While some new areas of focus and action have been highlighted by the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, both the Political Declaration and the outcome document reaffirm the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as the basic reference point for global commitment to gender equality. Consideration of the present report should serve to consolidate the commitments entered into by Governments and the international community.

72. The Secretary-General intends to take a number of steps to follow up the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome document. These include:

(a) Ensuring, subject to approval by the General Assembly, that adequate resources are allocated to gender training and, within the Secretariat, inviting the Office of Human Resources Management, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, to cooperate with departments in order to ensure that United Nations personnel at Headquarters and in the field receive training on how to mainstream a gender perspective into their work, in particular in the area of peacekeeping, and to ensure appropriate follow-up to this training;

(b) Strengthening, through the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, with a view to further enhancing system-wide intersectoral cooperation and coordination for the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome document and the promotion of integrated and coordinated follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits;

(c) Continuing to support the work of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women in advocating and supporting gender mainstreaming throughout the United Nations system, supporting equal opportunities within the United Nations, promoting women's economic and political empowerment and facilitating inter-agency collaboration on the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome document;

(d) Proposals for adequate resources for the Division for the Advancement of Women to enable it to carry out all of the tasks foreseen in the outcome document, as well as in the Platform for Action, that would fall within its responsibility will be provided in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, with due regard given to the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

(e) Disseminating the Political Declaration and the outcome document as widely as possible in all official languages of the United Nations;

(f) Making special efforts to implement the recommendation in the outcome document so as to ensure that appointments to positions of special representatives and special envoys, and any other positions pursuing good offices on behalf of the Secretary-General, reflect a gender balance as well as equitable geographical representation, and that competencies in gender mainstreaming are considered a professional requirement in these and other positions;

(g) Strengthening the overall resources for gender mainstreaming throughout the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in line with the Platform for Action, the outcome document and the guidelines included in the agreed conclusions 1997/2 adopted by the Economic and Social Council, including both policy analysis and operational work, in particular through ensuring the allocation of sufficient resources and maintenance of gender units and focal points in the Secretariat to achieve this end, and allocation of resources for training of staff on gender mainstreaming.

73. The General Assembly may wish to take the following steps to support the full and effective implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome document:

(a) Endorse the Political Declaration and the outcome document as adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", as an extension of and complement to, and an important means for ensuring the full and effective implementation of, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

(b) Decide that a gender perspective should be incorporated into issues before the Assembly and consider modalities for the effective review of the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome document on an annual basis;

(c) Ensure, when considering the report on the Millennium Assembly, that the outcome of the Assembly integrates a gender perspective, including in the consideration of poverty eradication;

(d) Take note of the strong reiteration in the outcome document of the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective into budgeting processes and urge planning and budgeting bodies, especially the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administration and Budgetary Questions, to give higher priority to integrating a gender perspective in medium-term plans and programme budgets, and request the Secretary-General to provide all necessary support to facilitate their work in that regard;

(e) Welcome the statement submitted by the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the General Assembly at its special session (A/S-23/8), and urge the Committee to continue to bring a gender perspective to the fore in its work and actively support the work of the Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, including through consideration of ways and means of providing the resources required to advance the work of the Inter-agency Committee;

74. The Assembly may also wish to request that:

(a) Governments, the United Nations system and all other actors take effective action on their political commitments to achieve full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the actions and initiatives contained in the outcome document adopted by the General Assembly at its special session;

(b) Governments, in collaboration with other stakeholders, translate the Political Declaration and the

outcome document into local languages and disseminate them as broadly as possible;

(c) Governments, in close collaboration with non-governmental organizations and civil society, develop specific implementation strategies which establish or strengthen national mechanisms for the advancement of women and mechanisms for incorporating a gender perspective into all policies and programmes;

(d) Governments, in close collaboration with non-governmental organizations and civil society, prepare national reports on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome document for review by the Commission on the Status of Women in 2004;

(e) Governments consider gender balance as well as competence and equitable geographical representation when nominating representatives to serve in all intergovernmental bodies and committees in the United Nations, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the outcome document;

(f) Governments and the international community support the efforts of non-governmental organizations and civil society to implement the Platform for Action and the outcome document;

(g) Governments provide adequate financial support to UNIFEM and INSTRAW so as to enable them to carry out their respective mandates effectively;

(h) International and regional organizations, including the organizations of the United Nations system, support Governments in the achievement of the goals of the Platform for Action and the outcome document in the context of a coordinated and integrated follow-up to global conferences and summits and, within their mandates, take due account of the Platform for Action and the outcome document adopted by the General Assembly at its special session and ensure the incorporation of a gender perspective into their respective policy-making areas;

(i) International organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions, mobilize resources from all sources, including from the private sector, to support Governments in furthering the implementation of the Platform for Action and outcome document;

(j) All actors in civil society, the private sector and the media contribute actively to the fulfilment of the objectives of the Platform for Action and the outcome document.

75. The Assembly may further wish to request:

(a) The Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and relevant resolutions and together with the General Assembly, to continue to constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that will play the primary role in overall policy-making and follow-up, and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action and the outcome document;

(b) The Economic and Social Council to continue to utilize the high-level, coordination, humanitarian and operational activities segments of its discussions to further policy coordination and inter-agency cooperation in the achievement of the objectives of the Platform for Action and the outcome document, and require all future reports to the Council to fully incorporate a gender perspective;

(c) The Commission on the Status of Women, at its forty-fifth session in 2001, to: develop a new multi-year work programme, taking into account the need to implement fully the Platform for Action and the outcome document and to integrate them into its work programme; consider the need to develop further its catalytic role in mainstreaming gender perspectives in United Nations activities; and report on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly to the Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council;

(d) The United Nations Development Fund for Women, to continue to promote women's political and economic empowerment and the elimination of violence against women at the country level;

(e) The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women to continue to develop new approaches, such as the gender awareness information and networking system, and to seek innovative means of funding.

76. The Assembly may also wish to:

(a) Invite all United Nations entities involved with development activities, especially the United Nations (UNDP) and UNIFEM, to ensure the

incorporation of a gender perspective into operational activities, in particular gender issues that are explicitly addressed in the development of common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Framework, and to ensure the full participation of women in decision-making and implementation of development activities, in particular as resident coordinators, as called for in the outcome document;

(b) Invite all United Nations entities involved with peace support operations, disarmament and humanitarian assistance to: take note of the importance given in the outcome document to the incorporation of a gender perspective into all peace support operations, including conflict prevention and resolution, post-conflict reconstruction, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building; develop gender-sensitive strategies; ensure the full participation of women at all levels of decision-making, in particular in the promotion of peace; provide gender-sensitive training to all actors; ensure the protection of women and children, including those who are refugees and displaced persons, in crisis situations; and invite the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and other relevant intergovernmental bodies to support and monitor this work;

(c) Take note of the attention given in the outcome document to the incorporation of a gender perspective into macroeconomic and trade policies and programmes and invite the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization to support governmental efforts and, where appropriate, to develop strategies and complementary programmes of their own to achieve full implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome document and to ensure that a gender perspective is addressed as an integral part of their work;

(d) Welcome the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by States since the Fourth World Conference on Women but note that the target of universal ratification by 2000 has not been achieved, and thus strongly urge those States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so, and invite States parties to the Convention on the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to consider signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol to that Convention;

(e) In view of the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention, emphasize the need for the Secretary-General to ensure that adequate human and financial resources are made available to support the effective functioning of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, including mechanisms for the effective implementation of the Optional Protocol, the dissemination of information on the Convention and the provision of assistance to States parties on implementation of the Convention.

Notes

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, sect. A.

[3] See *Commission on the Status of Women Agreed Conclusions on the Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action 1996-1999* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.IV.6).

[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[5] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[6] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[7] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/55/3/Rev.1), chap. V.

[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[9] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

United Nations A/55/342

General Assembly

Distr.: General
31 August 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Item 116 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Human rights questions: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

Preliminary report of the Secretary-General**

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* A/55/150 and Corr.1 and 2.

** In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/248, sect. C, para. 1, this report is being submitted on 31 August 2000 so as to include as much updated information as possible.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 54/165 of 17 December 1999, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, taking into account the different views of Member States, to submit a comprehensive report on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

2. The present preliminary report is submitted in response to that request. It is the intention of the Secretary-General to explore the issues and solicit the initial reactions of States before submitting the final report. For the preparation of that report, the written views of Member States will be sought and partner agencies will be brought into the process.

3. The present preliminary report has been written on the basis of reports of United Nations departments, programmes and funds, as well as the outcome document adopted at the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world" (A/S-24/8/Rev.1, chap. III).

4. In particular, the report draws on paragraph 4 of the political declaration of the twenty-fourth special session as expressing the views of Member States concerning globalization. Specifically, in paragraph 4, it is noted that:

> "Globalization and continuing rapid technological advances offer unprecedented opportunities for social and economic development. At the same time, they continue to present serious challenges, including widespread financial crises, insecurity, poverty, exclusion and inequality within and among societies. Considerable obstacles to further integration and full participation in the global economy remain for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, as well as for some countries with economies in transition. Unless the benefits of social and economic development are extended to all countries, a growing number of people in all countries and even entire regions will remain marginalized from the global economy."

II. Globalization — issues and challenges

5. Globalization is a term often used without any formal definition. The United Nations Development Programme *Human Development Report 1999* noted that globalization is not new, but that the present era of globalization has distinctive features. Shrinking space, shrinking time and disappearing borders are linking people's lives more deeply, more intensely, more immediately than ever before.[1] The present report assumes that globalization is multidimensional. It can be broken down into numerous complex and interrelated processes that have a dynamism of their own, resulting in both varied and often unpredictable effects. While there have been previous eras that have experienced globalization, the present era has certain distinctive features, including, although not limited to, advances in new technology, in particular information and communications technology, cheaper and quicker transport, trade liberalization, the increase in financial flows and the growth in the size and power of corporations. In order to advance a constructive exchange of views on globalization, States might consider conveying to the Secretary-General their views on how globalization might best be defined and approached from the perspective of human rights.

6. While many people are benefiting from new opportunities for travel and from new communications technology, new levels of wealth through increased trade, investment and capital flows, others are being left behind, in poverty, effectively marginalized from the hopes that globalization holds out.

7. Globalization therefore presents an important challenge to the international community. Over 50 years ago, the international community agreed, within the framework of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that, "Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized". According to the norms and standards of international human rights law, such an international and social order is one that promotes the inherent dignity of the human person, respects the right of people to self-determination and seeks social progress through participatory development and by promoting equality and non-discrimination in a peaceful, interdependent and accountable world.[2]

8. The norms and standards of international human rights law have an important role in providing principles for globalization. At the same time, the international rules established under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the macroeconomic policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank play a significant role in shaping and directing globalization. While the norms and standards of international human rights law stress participation, non-discrimination, empowerment and accountability, the global economy stresses economic objectives of free trade, growth, employment and sustainable development. The challenge facing the international community is to ensure that these two sets of objectives can be brought together to meet the commitment to a social and international order conducive to the enjoyment of all human rights. "The Global Compact" with business proposed by the Secretary-General in 1999 is an example of a strategy designed to address issues such as these.

9. The present report begins with an examination of the framework of international economic rules and policies from the perspective of the principles and goals of human rights law. This examination is followed by an overview of the principal effects of globalization as they have so far been identified by the reports of United Nations organizations, programmes and agencies, specifically as a result of trade liberalization, the increase in international financial flows, the advances in information and communications technology and the growth in the size and power of transnational corporations. The report concludes that the norms and standards of human rights are crucial to a full assessment of the cultural, political, social, environmental and economic dimensions of globalization.

III. The global economy and human rights

10. While various national, regional as well as international rules and policies drive many of the processes of globalization, in particular liberalization, deregulation and privatization, the trade rules established within the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement (the WTO agreements) and the macroeconomic policies of international financial institutions have a particularly strong influence in shaping the workings of the global economy. A review of the global economy as it functions within the framework of the policies of the international financial institutions and the rules of WTO will assist in establishing the extent to which an enabling environment supportive of the enjoyment of human rights exists.

11. The global economy is of course only one aspect in the creation of a social and international order conducive to the enjoyment of human rights. A just, efficient and equitable social order must also exist at the national level. Good governance at the national level is therefore an essential element. Good governance is important, not only from the perspective of ensuring respect for human rights at the national level, but as a means of incorporating and implementing international norms faithfully. The following issues are raised to solicit responses from States on the diverse effects of globalization at the national, regional and international levels, as a means of developing understanding for a constructive exchange of views on globalization.

A. The World Trade Organization agreements

12. On 15 April 1995, the Members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) signed the Final Act of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, a document including the various agreements setting rules relevant to trade in goods, services and intellectual property. The various agreements set the principles for trade liberalization, as well as the permitted exceptions, and established a procedure for settling disputes. As a result of the Uruguay Round, WTO, the organization responsible for strengthening the rule of law governing international trade, was created.

13. There is an unavoidable link between the international trading regime and the enjoyment of human rights. Economic growth through free trade can increase the resources available for the realization of human rights. However, economic growth does not automatically lead to greater promotion and protection of human rights. From a human rights perspective, questions are raised: does economic growth entail more equitable distribution of income, more and better jobs, rising wages, more gender equality and greater inclusiveness? From a human rights perspective, the

challenge posed is how to channel economic growth equitably to ensure the implementation of the right to development and fair and equal promotion of human well-being.

14. There are points of potential convergence between trade principles and objectives and the norms and standards of international human rights law. Looking at the WTO agreements themselves, the guiding principles can be said to mirror, to some extent, the principles of human rights law and, as such, to provide an opening for a human rights approach to the international trade regime.

15. The WTO agreements seek to create a liberal and rules-based multilateral trading system under which enterprises from Member States can trade with each other under conditions of fair competition. The goals of WTO itself link the objectives of increasing living standards, full employment, the expansion of demand, production and trade in goods and services with the optimal use of the world's resources, in accordance with the objective of sustainable development. The agreements seek to achieve these ends by establishing rules geared towards reducing barriers to trade and ensuring respect for the principle of non-discrimination among Member States. The WTO agreements also encourage preferential treatment in favour of developing countries and least developed countries in the form of special assistance and longer implementation periods, the non-prohibition on export subsidies and the obligation to consider constructive remedies in anti-dumping actions against imports from developing countries.

16. The goals and principles of the WTO agreements and those of human rights law do, therefore, share much in common. Goals of economic growth, increasing living standards, full employment and the optimal use of the world's resources are conducive to the promotion of human rights, in particular the right to development.[3] Parallels can also be drawn between the principles of fair competition and non-discrimination under trade law and equality and non-discrimination under human rights law. Furthermore, the special and differential treatment offered to developing countries under the WTO rules reflects notions of affirmative action under human rights law.

17. These parallels can even be traced to the origins of GATT. It will be recalled that, in 1945, the United Nations was established to uphold peace on the foundations of respect for human rights and economic and social progress and development. The International Trade Organization, which was envisaged in the Havana Charter for an International Trade Organization of 1947, included the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and IMF as part of that vision. Article XX of the original GATT recognized non-trade public interest values in particular cases where values and rules conflict. Article XX provided that nothing in the Agreement should be construed to prevent the adoption or enforcement by any contracting party of measures necessary to protect public morals, necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health, relating to the products of prison labour, relating to the conservation of exhaustible natural resources if such measures were made effective in conjunction with restrictions on domestic production or consumption or essential to the acquisition or distribution of products in general or local short supply. The exceptions referred to call to mind the protection of the right to life, the right to a clean environment, the right to food and to health, the right to self-determination over the use of natural resources and the right to development and freedom from slavery, to mention a few. The exceptions under GATT give rise to the question: to what extent does article XX indicate a point of convergence between trade rules and international human rights law? The challenge ahead is to develop the human rights aspects incorporated in international trade law, in particular as a result of the inclusion of article XX, so that the development and implementation of trade rules promote the social and international order envisaged under article 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

18. While the goals and principles of the WTO agreements and international human rights law converge to some extent, the rules which have been adopted to achieve the goals of the former do not always produce results that are consistent with human rights imperatives. To take a case in point, specific issues arise in relation to the standards set concerning intellectual property rights.

19. First, the minimum standards for the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights included under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (the TRIPS agreement) have led to the expression of concerns of balance and fairness.[4] Issues have been raised in

relation to the protection of the intellectual property of indigenous peoples and local communities. It has been said that, while some of the standards in the TRIPS agreement are relevant to the protection of the knowledge and technology of these groups, the question arises whether the standards established under the TRIPS agreement are sufficient to provide comprehensive protection to the intellectual property of indigenous peoples and local communities. It has been pointed out, for example, that, in spite of the relevance of intellectual property of indigenous peoples to the development of modern technology, including biotechnology and technology relevant to the protection of the environment, universities and companies have taken and developed traditional medicines and other knowledge, protecting the resulting technology with intellectual property rights, without the equitable sharing of the benefits and profits with the original holders of that knowledge. It has also been contended that the TRIPS agreement, in its present form, has not been effective in preventing such uses of culture and technology. One question that has been raised from a human rights perspective is: how can international rules be adapted to protect and promote the cultural rights of indigenous peoples and other groups?[5]

20. Similarly, questions have been raised over the adequacy of the TRIPS agreement in addressing the needs of developing countries, generally technology users, to access needed technology for development and the protection of the environment.[6] Figures related to patent applications demonstrate an overwhelming presence of technology holders in developed countries.[7] Furthermore, an examination of the flow of royalty fees indicates that the overwhelming proportion of payments and receipts of royalties and licence fees flow between countries with high incomes. For example, in 1998, while sub-Saharan Africa paid US$ 273 million in royalty and licensing fees, and Europe and Central Asia paid US$ 723 million, high-income countries paid US$ 53,723 million. To put this in perspective, high-income countries dwarf the rest of the world in royalty and licencing fee receipts, with high-income countries receiving US$ 63,051 million and the rest of the world only US$ 1,283 million.[8]

21. While there are many complex reasons explaining the concentration of technology holders and technology transfer in and among developed countries, the figures are significant. Given the importance of technology to development, the TRIPS agreement has implications for the enjoyment of human rights, in particular the right to development, which need to be explored further.

22. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights issued a statement to the Third Ministerial Conference of WTO noting that human rights norms must shape the process of international economic policy formulation so that the benefits for human development of the evolving international trading regime will be shared equitably by all, in particular the most vulnerable sectors.[9] The Committee stated its willingness to collaborate with WTO in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights.

B. The policies of international financial institutions

23. The implementation of macroeconomic policies, in particular through the projects and programmes of the international financial institutions, has also played a significant role in shaping globalization. The design and implementation of structural adjustment programmes has heightened concerns that macroeconomic policies do not sufficiently accommodate the need to promote and protect human rights. The special rapporteur of the working group on structural adjustment programmes established by the Economic and Social Council has noted that, while such programmes might be necessary and in fact beneficial for economic growth and social development, their design has generally been motivated by the objective of ensuring repayment of interest on debts owed to international creditor institutions and not by the promotion and protection of human rights.[10] The Committee on Economic and Social Rights has underlined the importance of including the promotion and protection of human rights within the framework of structural adjustment programmes.[11]

IV. The effects of globalization: preliminary remarks

24. While the rules and policies of the global economy are important in shaping an international and social order conducive to the protection of human rights, the active features of globalization, the growth in trade and financial flows, the new information and

communication technology and the growth in size and power of corporations, have a dynamism of their own which affect human rights in ways beyond the rules and policies referred to above. The following section identifies issues needing further research concerning some of the possible impacts of these processes on the enjoyment of human rights. The summary of issues is built on recognition of the many positive effects that the processes of globalization have on the enjoyment of human rights for many. However, from a human rights perspective, the principles of equality and non-discrimination underline the importance of promoting the human rights of all. This concern forms the basis for the identification of the issues that follow. The issues are identified in order to assist States in identifying factors relevant for a continuing dialogue on globalization.

A. Advances in communications and information technology

25. One of the most influential elements in the globalization process has been the explosion of information and communications technology. The Internet has enabled people from different regions and cultures to communicate rapidly and across great distances and to access information quickly. Indeed, the Internet is the fastest growing communications tool, with more than 140 million users as at mid-1998, and the number of users expected to pass 700 million by 2001.[12]

26. In addition, communications networks can foster advances in health and education. The Internet has enabled the interconnection of civil society, which has had a direct impact on the promotion and protection of human rights. The successful organization of civil society has been assisted by the interconnection of individuals and interested groups made possible through modern telecommunication and information technology.

27. In spite of the benefits flowing from information and communications technology, the uneven spread of new technology can also result in the marginalization of people. World Bank figures indicate that while in high-income countries there are 607 Internet hosts per 10,000 people, in sub-Saharan Africa and in South Asia there are, respectively, only 2 and 0.17 hosts per 10,000 people. Similarly, while in high-income countries, there are, on average, 311 people per 1,000 with personal computers, in Latin America and the Caribbean, there are only 34, and in South Asia there are only 2.9 per 1,000.[13] In the *Human Development Report, 1999*, it has been noted that, in spite of the positive effects of the new technology, it also introduces problems of marginalization. The report characterizes marginalization in the form of divisions by geographical location (countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have 91 per cent of connections), education (30 per cent of users have at least one university degree), income (only wealthy people and countries can afford Internet connections) and language (80 per cent of web sites are in English).[14]

28. The new technology can also be used to abuse human rights, in particular through the spread of hate speech. The Internet, in particular, has been used for the propagation of racism, child pornography and religious intolerance through the spread of violent, sexist, pornographic, anti-minority and anti-religious hate speech and images. The technical difficulty of regulating the content of messages broadcast through the Internet makes it a particularly effective means of misusing the freedom of expression and inciting discrimination and other abuses of human rights. This aspect of the Internet poses particular problems for Governments as protectors of human rights. It will be one of the key issues at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, which is to be held in Durban, South Africa, in 2001.

B. Liberalization of trade and financial flows

29. In recent years, many countries, spurred on by liberalizing international and regional trade policies, have based their development strategies on increasing integration into the global financial and trading systems. This has led to a dramatic increase in world exports of goods and services, from $4.7 trillion in 1990 to $7.5 trillion in 1998.[15] Today, nearly one fifth of all goods and services produced are being traded internationally.[16] The results have generally been an increase in capital inflows and outflows and a growth in the share of external trade relative to national income.

30. Increased trade and investment has brought significant benefits to many nations and people. There

is evidence to suggest that increased trade and investment are related to higher rates of economic growth and productivity.[17] A recent WTO study suggests that trade provides an important contribution to the economic growth of nations and may ultimately lead to the alleviation of poverty.[18]

31. However, dismantling trade barriers and the growth of international trade does not always have a positive impact on human rights.[19]

32. For example, while some nations have benefited from impressive increases in trade and financial flows over the past decade, other countries have not fared so well.[20] The *Human Development Report 2000* noted that, in 1998, least developed countries, with 10 per cent of the world population, accounted for only 0.4 per cent of global exports, representing a consistent fall from 0.6 per cent in 1980 and 0.5 per cent in 1990. Sub-Saharan Africa's share declined to 1.4 per cent, down from 2.3 per cent in 1980 and 1.6 per cent in 1990.[21] Similarly, capital flows tended to remain highly concentrated between developed countries, or to a limited number of developing countries. For example, in 1998, the 10 top developing country recipients accounted for 70 per cent of foreign direct investment (FDI) flows.[22] In 1998, the 48 least developed countries received only $3 billion of the total FDI flow of $600 billion that year.

33. These figures raise several questions for further consideration: to what extent are the figures connected to trade and financial liberalization? To what extent are they related to a failure to liberalize trade and finance effectively? What other factors cause the low rates of foreign direct investment? To what extent do they identify the benefits of globalization being shared unevenly or at different rates? Finally, how could a human rights approach to trade liberalization correct perceived inequalities in international trade and investment?

34. It should be recognized that the trade protectionism, which the liberalization of trade is now replacing, can have a negative impact on the promotion and protection of human rights. The uneven distribution of trade and finance is not helped by the significant restrictions on trade that often face developing countries. Indeed, as developing countries open up their economies, they are often faced with significant trade barriers or restricted access in their areas of natural comparative advantage, such as agriculture or textiles.[23] For example, a report of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs notes that, in the agricultural sector, the total level of support in the form of subsidies for agriculture in OECD countries averaged $350 billion during the period from 1996 to 1998, a figure that represents double the agricultural exports from developing countries over the same period. This makes it difficult for developing countries to compete, which is particularly harmful, given the importance of the agricultural sector as a source of income and employment. Ironically, sub-Saharan Africa has one of the most liberal agricultural sectors in the world, in spite of its small share of the global market.[24]

35. While dismantling barriers to trade and investment opens up markets to new opportunities, a recent study on the social impact of globalization carried out by the International Labour Organization (ILO) found that it can also leave countries vulnerable to global economic changes in exchange rates, wages and commodity prices.[25] This vulnerability to external shocks is exacerbated by a lack of sophisticated economic and social structures in many developing countries.

36. Ultimately, trade liberalization and financial deregulation have diverse impacts that are often difficult to assess. Country studies undertaken by ILO also indicate that, while it has the potential to improve people's welfare, globalization occurs in a context of rising inequalities.[26] For example, the final ILO report on country studies states that there is a trend towards wider income inequalities, not only in most of the countries under study, but also in other member States. The report goes on to state that there is little evidence that trade is the main direct factor at work.[27] Further research is needed to clarify any linkages between the processes of globalization, trade liberalization and inequality.

37. While globalization has led to the dismantling of barriers to the trade in goods and services, labour is increasingly restricted inside national and ethnic boundaries. The increasing barriers to trade in labour, and migration in general, have been coupled with a resistance to promote and protect the human rights of migrants. Although the General Assembly adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families in 1990, 10 years ago, it still lacks the sufficient number of ratifications by States for it to come into force.

38. The effect of the growth in trade on workers rights is difficult to assess. A study of nine countries undertaken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs noted that trade liberalization was accompanied by reduced wages, underemployment, informalization of labour and adverse impacts on unskilled labour, particularly in the manufacturing sector.[28] In relation to women's workers' rights, globalization seems to have had the effect of repeating existing patterns of discrimination against women, but on an international scale. The *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* indicates that, on the positive side, the orientation of manufacturing production towards exports has led to a significant increase in the share of female workers in export industries. In the international financial services sector, women enjoy high rates of employment, increasingly even at higher levels. However, the report also shows that, in the export manufacturing sector, women workers are generally confined to low skill wage occupations, and it appears that, as jobs and wages improve in quality, women tend to be excluded from them.[29] In the informal sector, it appears that women suffer as a result of the growth of trade with imports displacing women, as workers and as small entrepreneurs, disproportionately to men.[30] This is occurring, in spite of the significant role that women play in the globalization process. As the survey states, "it is now a well-known fact that industrialization in the context of globalization is as much female-led as it is export led".[31]

39. It is also important to highlight certain negative aspects of international trade in a globalizing world. In doing so, a distinction is made between the rules and policies of the international community concerning trade liberalization and particular international trade practices in a globalizing world. While the globalization of trade has been accompanied by the growth in particular types of trade that lead to human rights abuses, these should not be confused with international rules and policies that are intended to produce trade liberalization. Nonetheless, a report of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights notes that, in some instances, and particularly in impoverished and undemocratic societies, globalization has facilitated trade in the form of international arms transfers, which, in turn, provide the necessary tools for armed conflict.[32] The same report links globalization with an increase in the dumping of environmental waste near the homes of low income or minority groups and notes significant dumping in developing countries. Globalization has also been accompanied by the rise in the international trafficking of drugs, diamonds and even human beings, including children. Such aspects of international trade raise issues of the right to life, the right to a clean environment, and the right to development. Further research is needed into the links between the processes of globalization and negative aspects of international trade and the ways in which policies may be formulated to promote and protect human rights in this regard.

40. The growth of trafficking in women and girls and the sex industry are causes of major concern. Each year, millions of individuals, the vast majority of them women and children, are tricked, sold or coerced into situations of exploitation from which they cannot escape.[33] The causes and effects of trafficking are complex, however several observations are relevant to the discussion of trafficking. First, trafficking in women and girls reflects global inequalities, as it invariably involves movement from a poorer country to a wealthier one.[34] Secondly, trafficking, in particular for prostitution, is becoming more widespread. Crime cartels, operating transnationally, are often the mediator for trafficking, and trafficking for prostitution can be traced to the demand caused by the rapidly expanding global sex industry.[35] As a result, trafficked people suffer abuses of their human rights, in particular freedom from slavery, freedom of movement, freedom from fear, discrimination and injustice.

C. Growth of corporations

41. The need to compete in new and often distant markets has led to a wave of mergers and acquisitions, which have enabled companies to specialize in core competencies that ensure international competitive advantages in particular areas. This, in turn, has led to the phenomenon of the mega-corporation, with cross-border mergers and acquisitions exceeding the value of $1,100 billion in 1999. As a result, some transnational corporations have greater economic wealth than States. A report by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) noted that the annual sales of one transnational corporation exceeds the combined gross domestic product of Chile, Costa Rica and Ecuador.[36]

42. The comparative size and power of transnational corporations raises issues that need to be considered. In

a worst case scenario, transnational corporations may be able to use their position of comparative power over States to play nations and communities off against each other in an effort to receive the most advantageous benefits.[37] The relative power of transnational corporations must not detract from the enjoyment of human rights.

43. Questions have been raised about the social costs of schemes to attract foreign investment such as economic processing zones. Questions have also been raised about the employment practices of transnational corporations and their effects on the human rights of their employees. Greater attention is needed in order to devise strategies that link investment policy with the protection of workers' rights. In this regard, ILO has been active in developing strategies for the protection of workers rights, in particular through the development and implementation of the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, as well as the ILO Convention (No. 182) concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour. In the outcome document of the World Summit for Social Development of July 2000, States committed themselves to improving the quality of work in the context of globalization, including through the promotion of these and other ILO initiatives.[38]

44. Concerns about the impact of the operations of transnational corporations in relation to the protection of cultural diversity were also expressed in the *Human Development Report 1999*.[39] Some commentators fear that failure to give appropriate attention and support to the cultures of local and indigenous peoples, as a counterbalance to foreign influence, could result in pressures on local cultures.[40] Moreover, media control in the hands of a limited number of transnational media corporations can also have implications for the freedom of expression. Highly concentrated media ownership vests powers of censorship in the hands of media owners to determine where and what they publish.[41]

45. At the same time, transnational corporations can play an important role in promoting and protecting human rights. The Global Compact initiative of the Secretary-General, was first proposed in 1999 to challenge business leaders to promote and apply, within their own domains, nine principles derived from international instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to advance human rights, labour and environmental standards.[42] At a meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 26 July 2000, global leaders from business, labour and civil society met with the Secretary-General to formally launch this initiative. They agreed to work together within the common framework of the Global Compact to strengthen responsible corporate citizenship and the social pillars of globalization through dialogue and operational activities. While the Global Compact is not a substitute for effective action by Governments, or for the implementation of existing or future international agreements, it is a significant step in the direction of voluntary cooperation between the United Nations and the private sector in order to ensure that corporations have a positive impact on the enjoyment of human rights.

V. Conclusions

A. Poverty

46. The above preliminary overview of globalization identifies evidence to suggest that while globalization provides potential for the promotion and protection of human rights through economic growth, increased wealth, greater interconnection between peoples and cultures and new opportunities for development, its benefits are not being enjoyed evenly at the current stage. Indeed, many people are still living in poverty. On the positive side, World Bank figures indicate that the number of people living on less that $1 a day has been relatively stable in the past decade, in spite of an increase in the world's population, and, as a percentage rate, the percentage of people living in extreme poverty decreased from 29 per cent to 24 per cent between 1990 and 1998. Nonetheless, poverty alleviation is uneven. While East Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa have had significant reductions in poverty, poverty rates in South Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and sub-Saharan Africa have remained relatively stable, while Europe and Central Asia have experienced significant increases in poverty.[43] Statistics also reveal that 790 million people suffer from malnutrition, 880 million have no access to basic health services, 900 million adults are illiterate and 20 per cent of the world's population lacks access to safe drinking water. In sub-Saharan Africa, 51 per cent of the population lives in absolute poverty. The majority of people living in poverty are women.[44]

47. Poverty is both a cause and effect of human rights abuses. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, affirmed that extreme poverty and social exclusion constitute a violation of human dignity. It is difficult to assess the extent to which the various agents of globalization, trade liberalization, deregulation of finance and the growth of corporations and new technology, lead to or alleviate poverty. A study commissioned by WTO indicates that domestic policy in areas such as education and health has a greater impact on poverty than trade does, and concludes that trade liberalization is generally a positive contributor to poverty allevation.[45] Nonetheless, it is clear that poverty is still a part of the present era of globalization. Given the potential for growth that is offered by globalization, there is a need for more effective strategies to harness this potential as a means of alleviating poverty for all nations and regions.

B. A social and international order

48. The challenge of article 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to ensure the entitlement of everyone to a social and international order supportive of the realization of human rights, remains. At the heart of the challenge is the need to examine the social, political, cultural and economic, dimensions of globalization, and the impact they have on the rights of every human being. As the Secretary-General said in his report to the Millennium Assembly:

> "The economic sphere cannot be separated from the more complex fabric of social and political life, and sent shooting off on its own trajectory. To survive and thrive, a global economy must have a more solid foundation in shared values and institutional practices — it must advance broader, and more inclusive, social purposes".[46]

49. The keys to achieving these goals exist. The world conferences of the 1990's set out commitments and programmes for the promotion and protection of human rights, the advancement of women and social development. In June 2000, States agreed on new initiatives to achieve social development during the present era of globalization, including through the constant monitoring of the social impacts of economic policies, the reduction of negative impacts of international financial turbulence on social and economic development, the strengthening of the capacities of developing countries, in particular through the strengthening of capacities for trade as it relates to health, and the integration of social as well as economic aspects in the design of structural adjustment and reform programmes.[47]

50. The goals and programmes are already formulated. The strategy to achieve them lies in acknowledging that the principles and standards of human rights should be adopted as an indispensable framework for globalization. Human rights embody universal shared values and are the common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations.[48] By adopting a human rights approach, globalization can be examined in its civil, cultural, political, social and economic contexts so that the international community can meet its commitment to an international and social order conducive to respect for human rights. This must be the strategy of governance at all levels — to secure respect of all human rights for everyone.

Notes

[1] United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Human Development Report 1999*, Oxford University Press, New York, 1999, p. 1. The report goes on to note that globalization is not a new phenomenon in historical terms, but that it is different today. Some of the characteristics are new markets — foreign exchange and capital markets linked globally, operating 24 hours a day, with dealings at a distance in real time; new tools — Internet links, cellular phones, media networks; new actors — the World Trade Organization (WTO) with authority over national Governments, the multinational corporations with more economic power than many States, the global network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other groups that transcend national boundaries; new rules — multilateral agreements on trade, services and intellectual property, backed by strong enforcement mechanisms and more binding for national governments reducing the scope for national policy.

[2] See articles 1, 2 and 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, parts I and II of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and article 1 of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development.

[3] See also articles 3 (Right to life), 23 (Right to work) and 25 (Right to an adequate standard of living) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

[4] It should be noted that the protection of intellectual property is a human right under article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In particular, article 15 (1) (c) notes that "The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone ... to benefit from the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author". Intellectual property rights themselves, as for example those established according to the minimum standards contained in the TRIPS agreement, are not themselves human rights. However they could be a means of promoting and protecting the human right to intellectual property, so long as the granting of such intellectual property rights achieves the balance and fairness required by article 27 of the Universal Declaration and article 15 of the Covenant.

[5] There is of course nothing in the TRIPS agreement that prevents States taking individual action to protect the technology and knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities.

[6] While article 7 of the TRIPS agreement states that the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights should contribute to the transfer and dissemination of technology, the agreement does not develop any mechanism to achieve this.

[7] For example: in 1997, patent applications numbered 2,785,420 in high-income countries, while in East Asia and the Pacific they numbered 290,630; in the Middle East and North Africa there were only 1,716 applications; and in sub-Saharan Africa, 392,959, with only 38 of those being filed by residents. See World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2000*, World Bank, Washington, D.C., 2000, table 5.12.

[8] World Bank, op. cit., table 5.12.

[9] See E/CN.12/1999/9, para. 5.

[10] See E/CN.4/1999/47.

[11] See E/1999/22, paras. 378-393. See also, E/C.12/1/Add.7/Rev.1, para. 21.

[12] UNDP, op. cit., p. 5.

[13] World Bank, op. cit., table 5.12.

[14] UNDP, 1999, op. cit., p. 6.

[15] UNDP, *Human Development Report 2000*, Oxford University Press, New York, 2000, p. 82.

[16] UNDP, 1999, op. cit., p. 1.

[17] International Labour Office, *Country studies on the social impact of globalization: final report*, ILO, Governing Body, 276th Session, GB. 276/WP/SDL/1, para. 30.

[18] Ben-David, D. and L. Alan Winters, "Trade, Income Disparity and Poverty", *Special Studies No. 5*, World Trade Organization, WTO Publications, Geneva, 1999.

[19] See E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/11, para. 3.

[20] Even those countries that have experienced impressive increases in trade and financial flows have suffered downturns and reversals in fortune as a result of financial crises, such as the Asian financial crisis of 1997.

[21] UNDP, 2000, op. cit., p. 82.

[22] A/AC.253/25, para. 41.

[23] See the comments of Joseph Stiglitz, former World Bank chief economist, quoted in E/CN.4/Sub.2/2000/13, para. 14.

[24] A/AC.253/25, para. 21.

[25] International Labour Office, op. cit., para. 68 (f).

[26] Ibid., para. 3.

[27] Ibid.

[28] See Janine Berg and Lance Taylor, "External liberalization, economic performance and social policy", New School for Social Research, Working Paper Series: Globalization, Labour Markets and Social Policy, February 2000. Cited in A/AC.253/25, para. 9.

[29] See E/1999/44, para. 52.

[30] Ibid., para. 55.

[31] Ibid., para. 50.

[32] E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/8, para. 16.

[33] E/ECE/RW.2/2000/3, para. 1.

[34] Ibid., para. 11.

[35] Ibid., para. 17.

[36] United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, *States of Disarray: The Social Effects of Globalization*, report on the World Summit for Social Development, Geneva, March 1995, p. 153. Similarly, according to the *Human Development Report 1999*, the assets of the top three billionaires are more than the combined gross national product of all least developed countries.

[37] See E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/11, para. 53.

[38] A/S-24/8/Rev.1, para. 38.

[39] UNDP, 1999, op. cit., para. 4 (f).

[40] E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/8, para. 19. Also, UNDP 1999, op. cit., p. 5.

[41] Ghai, Y., "Rights, Markets and Globalization: East Asian Experience", *Report of the Symposium on Human Development and Human Rights*, UNDP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oslo, Norway, 2-3 October 1998, p. 130.

[42] See Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Putting principles into practice: creating a Global Compact with the business sector, 2000*.

[43] World Bank, 2000, op. cit., p. 4.

[44] See UNDP, 1999, op. cit.; *United Nations Action Strategy for Halving Poverty* (25 May 2000); and *United Nations Bulletin on the Eradication of Poverty* (Nos. 1-5).

[45] Ben-David, D. and L. Alan Winters, op. cit.

[46] A/54/2000, para. 25.

[47] See A/S-24/2/Add.2 (Parts I and III), paras. 6 bis, 10, 82, 82 bis and 103 ter.

[48] See *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, preamble.